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Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Agreement—A Hizballah Shura Council official declared that the agreement with Amal to halt the battles in Iqlim al-Tuffah "requires another agreement" between Tehran and Damascus on the issue of foreign hostages, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

The official added that there are still "deep differences" between Iran and Syria on the question of releasing the hostages.

South Lebanon Attack, Deportations—Amal "resistance fighters" attacked an SLA barracks in a "violent clash" in Jazzin 1 February, the Voice of National Resistance radio reported. Another clash occured near Bint Jubayl in which three Amal fighters were killed, the radio added.

The SLA expelled 72 Lebanese from the "security zone" in the past 2 weeks, mostly from Shab'a village, Jerusalem radio reported. An SLA source cited by the radio commented that the policy of mass deportations "is proving to be most efficient."

Israel

Tabah Issue—Israel has agreed to withdraw from the Tabah area 1 week after agreements with Egypt on access to the area and on its assets are concluded, Tel Aviv educational television reported, adding that it is hoped that the talks with Egypt on the Tabah issue "will resume next week."

"We are very close to a solution, and with a little good will on both sides it will be possible to attain an agreement," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens stated in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television.

Violence in Territories —The Tel Aviv district court sentenced an Or Yehuda resident to 1 year of imprisonment and an additional 1 year suspended sentence for preparing a firebomb with which to set fire to Arab "sleeping quarters," Jerusalem radio reported.

Fatah, the movement led by Yasir 'Arafat, has called on Palestinians in the occupied territories to ignore calls for a strike issued by the Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Fatah accused the movement of "failure to appreciate the importance of the uprising and of trying to divide the people, the radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas affirmed the PLO's wish to continue the dialogue with the United States, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN. He denied a Palestinian delegation will visit Damascus for talks on the results of the Arab Committee's talks on Lebanon.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), pointed out the "mutual trust and credibility" between the DFLP and the USSR in efforts to solve the Middle East and Palestinian problems, AL-ANBA' daily reported.

Hawatimah also pointed out that the USSR had cautioned against "maneuvers" by the West to crush the intifadah and to "present an alternative leadership" for the Palestinian people.

Iran

Talks in Ankara —Protocols on security cooperation and an antinarcotics campaign were signed in Anakara 2 February by Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and his Turkish counterpart, IRNA reported.

According to the agency, the two countries also agreed to set up a joint security council to "prevent suspicious activities which might endanger the stability" of the two countries.

Prisoners Released—A group of 429 prisoners have been freed in Bakhtaran and other provinces to mark the revolution anniversary, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech—President Najibullah castigated Pakistan"s "blatant and repeated" violations of the Geneva accords in a speech to the nation broadcast on Afghan radio and television 2 February.

He said the Afghan Government and the USSR have consistently made efforts to implement the accords and to find a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem. Nevertheless, the government, the party, and the Armed Forces "are capable of independently defending themselves and the people," he declared, adding that the government is prepared for talks with the armed opposition groups.

Najibullah also gave a news conference in Kabul 2 February, Moscow television and AFP reported.

He insisted that his government "will survive" after the Soviet withdrawal and that the PDPA "will not remove itself from the political scene.

Talks in Islamabad—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto 2 February for talks on the Afghan problem, IRNA reported.

Velayati agreed with Bhutto that the two countries should continue to provide aid to the mujahidin "even after the Soviet withdrawal," the agency noted.

Pakistan

Plane Crash—The Afghan Government accused Pakistan of shooting down the transport aircraft which crashed near Bannu Airport 31 January, according to Kabul radio.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the radio said the plane "lost" its bearings due to bad weather. However, according to Islamabad radio, the plane crashed due to a "fuel shortage."

Soviet Denial—At a 2 February press briefing in Moscow reported by TASS, Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilyev dismissed allegations of Soviet involvement in the death of former Pakistani President Ziaul Haq as "absolute nonsense."

He declared that the Pakistani and U.S. investigations of the causes of the crash contained "no charges" against third countries.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Khalaf Views Dialogue With United States

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[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Text] [Zaytun] Brother Abu Iyad, the PLO, not content with what it offered at the PNC session in Algiers, offered something new in Geneva. How do you explain this chain of concessions?

[Khalaf] First of all, there is no need to use the word concessions. We should rather say that what happened was a response to international wishes in fulfilling the peace requirements. I believe that in Algiers and Geneva we offered everything in case someone should ask us for even more than that. We have reached the red line. We have, in accordance with a political line, demonstrated our interest in peace and in a settlement of the Middle East conflict in which the Palestinian question is the crux. We are neither required nor are we willing to make any additional offers. What is now needed is an equal and reciprocal initiative. It is unreasonable that the Palestinians should be the only ones making initiatives.

[Zaytun] Do you mean that the world's response to the Palestinian initiatives has not lived up to expectations?

[Khalaf] Of course, and, to be specific, we are not satisfied with the European position in general. We have offered everything they asked of us; namely, the recognition of international legitimacy represented by Resolutions 242 and 338, but when we did so they did not offer what we wanted. That has given us the feeling that we have been tricked by Europe, which has only been content with offering suspect initiatives aimed at depriving us of independent representation.

[Zaytun] What about the United States?

[Khalaf] The dialogue with the United States is, in itself, a positive step and the coming days will show whether or not the United States is serious about recognizing our people's rights and our state, which will be created on the ground on the basis of what the PLO has decided.

[Zaytun] How do you assess the first round of dialogue with the United States?

[Khalaf] The first round was exploratory but it did reveal some dangerous signs in the U.S. position—perhaps no different from what we already know, but now officially confirmed. The U.S. ambassador in Tunis concentrated on the following three serious issues:

1. Terrorism. He wanted to label all resistance and armed struggle operations and the uprising as some kind of terrorism. We rejected that and we emphasized that, as universally understood, terrorism means attacking civilians, but armed struggle, uprising, and resistance are rights to which nations are entitled.

2. Direct negotiations. The ambassador stressed that such negotiations should be held before an international conference. Our delegation explained that direct negotiations are not appropriate except at an international conference, so that there will be no bilateral deals.

3. Palestinian representation. The U.S. delegation tried to cast doubt on the PLO's representation of our people. We replied that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, that nobody else is going to represent them at an international conference, and that we should attend such a conference independently without being part of an Egyptian-Palestinian delegation or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The only exception acceptable to us in this connection is formation of a unified Arab delegation on an equal footing.

[Zaytun] Would you bet on a positive U.S. stance in favor of the Palestinian people?

[Khalaf] There can be no doubt that our aim in the dialogue with the United States is to achieve that result. We must not forget that only the Americans have the ability to impose a solution like, for example, what happened in 1956 when Ben Gurion was forced to withdraw from Sinai and Gaza and in 1980 when Menahem Begin withdrew from Sinai, demolished his settlements and, more than that, overlooked his Torah conviction which gave him the illusion that Sinai was part of the promised land. So, on that basis, you could say we are betting on some U.S. pressure to impose a solution that would be fair to our people: withdrawal from the occupied territory and the establishment of a Palestinian state that would be a home for all free men and all Palestinians.

[Zaytun] You are having a dialogue with the United States, which you used to describe as your number one enemy.

[Khalaf] People only have to hold dialogues with their enemies, because with friends there are no problems. We have no complex. We used to say that the United States was our enemy and that it was criminal but we should have a dialogue with it. I do not deny I am happy that a dialogue has been initiated with it. That has proved useful as, for example, in the case of the American airliner.

[Zaytun] How is that, Abu Iyad?

[Khalaf] As you know, the lines between us and the United States are open. It asked us for and we expressed willingness to give it whatever information we have

about the incident of the airliner which exploded over Scotland. If there had been no dialogue, there would perhaps have been mounting accusations that we were behind that catastrophe, because of the absence of a channel of communication to explain the facts.

[Zaytun] What, in your view, is the truth?

[Khalaf] I state the truth from my position as official in charge of the Palestinian revolution's joint security. It is that the Israeli Mosad was behind that crime, because it is the only side which stands to benefit from undermining the achievements of the uprising and the Palestinian initiatives and from distracting people with talk of terrorism.

[Zaytun] Do you have any specific evidence confirming that Mosad was behind the operation?

[Khalaf] Anyone who examines the technical way the operation was planned, the calculated infiltration of European airports available only to Mosad, and the type of explosives and the way they were smuggled in will easily discover that only Mosad was capable of doing that. We hope the United States and Britain will have the courage to divulge this fact, if our evidence is confirmed.

[Zaytun] Going back to the political initiatives: How much time is required for settlement efforts, in your view?

[Khalaf] What is important is that in the political process, there should be no timewasting. We believe the suspect initiatives which Europe is trying to make and the Zionist enemy's fascist initiatives are a waste of time. They all seek to circumvent the Palestinian initiative by talking about political representation as a matter of rivalry with the PLO. That would not only be a waste of time but would obstruct a just and comprehensive settlement. Anyway, we will continue with our political moves for the duration of 1989 and we will resist suspect initiatives, awaiting some new developments in the next 6 months to 1 year.

[Zaytun] What do you think of Shamir's latest initiative calling for a tripartite confederation?

[Khalaf] Shamir, who is Likud's hawk, cannot possibly come up with an acceptable initiative. He only offers fascist initiatives. His call for a confederation is rejected, naturally. The Palestinian people, who have struggled and sacrificed their best young men, do not want that to end with a confederation with the enemy, a confederation that would open the Arab world to the enemy and deny the Palestinian people their independence. As regards a confederation with Jordan, that is possible if the peoples of the states of Jordan and Palestine choose that course in a free referendum after independence. The confederation option should be in accordance with what has been accepted by our PNC.

[Zaytun] Shamir is noticeably beginning to soften his political position since the formation of the Israeli Cabinet. He has, for the first time, accepted a UN role in direct negotiations.

[Khalaf] That is a deceptive move. He wants a role for the UN as a cover for direct negotiations to escape a UN-supervised international conference attended by the parties concerned. Let us not forget that Shamir now wants to expunge the current world interest in the Palestinian political move before dealing a crippling blow to that move.

[Zaytun] What is the difference between the UN role advocated by Shamir and the UN role at an international conference?

[Khalaf] The international conference we call for is a conference attended by all the parties to the conflict with the aim of arriving at a comprehensive and just settlement for all. By all, I do not only mean the Palestinians but also the Jordanians who have territory under occupation, the Syrians whose Golan Heights are occupied by the enemy, and the Lebanese whose southern territory is occupied by the enemy. Shamir's idea of a conference is probably one that would be used as a cover for autonomy so we may accept it as an alternative to self-determination. We have rejected that since 1978, before the uprising, so how could we accept it now when we are strong, thanks to the uprising which will not abandon the demand for an independent Palestinian state?

[Zaytun] There are those who claim that the Palestinian people are tired and want any solution that would end their suffering.

[Khalaf] Let no one bet on our people's tiredness. The people cannot possibly accept any solution at any price. It was perhaps the illusion of such bets that led others to conclude unacceptable solutions.

[Zaytun] On what do you place your bet then?

[Khalaf] We mainly bet on the continuation of the uprising in the occupied territory and armed struggle against enemy targets in the occupied territory. That does not contradict our rejection of terrorism as we understand it and our rejection of any operation outside the occupied territory. We condemn that, no matter which side carries it out. In addition to the uprising and armed struggle, we also bet on continuation of political moves in pursuit of our national rights.

[Zaytun] You talk about the uprising as the main effective activating factor. Are you not contemplating a new mechanism to boost and escalate the uprising?

[Khalaf] You sound as if you mean use of arms in the occupied territory. Salih, it is important that we stay away from arms. Let the rocks and the Molotov cocktails play their effective part.

[Zaytun] Then what is your idea of escalating the uprising?

[Khalaf] The required escalation is one of reaching the point of general civil disobedience. That needs continuous and steady aid for our Palestinian workers who are compelled to work in enemy factories. If the Arab states paid their financial commitments pledged at the Algiers summit, that would be enough to spare these workers the pain of having to go to enemy factories to make a living; it would be enough to facilitate a shift to a new phase in the uprising, in that it would pay the wages of these workers if they decided to declare general disobedience and refuse to go to enemy establishments.

[Zaytun] There is talk about forming a Palestinian popular army in the occupied territory as a way of developing the uprising.

[Khalaf] I hope formation of that army will not be misinterpreted. There have been claims that it comes under the Fatah Movement and that it takes its orders from Force 17, which is attached to the Fatah command. As one of the Fatah leaders I say that that army is the army of the Unified National Command, in other words the army of the people. It in fact consists of the strike units of the uprising command.

[Zaytun] Some people say the Palestinians have now accepted what Al-Sadat did 10 years ago.

[Khalaf] That is nonsense. What Al-Sadat did was a political ploy and a bilateral deal. We pursue a studied political plan that responds to the international will provided that our rights are fulfilled. However, I warn against wrong interpretation of the PNC resolutions leading us to the point reached by Al-Sadat—a point that we could not withdraw from afterward.

[Zaytun] By that, do you mean the interpretations voiced by some PLO representatives abroad?

[Khalaf] I do not want to name names. They know themselves. I just warn against erroneous interpretation of the resolutions. Some people are suggesting a Palestinian state on any part of the territory we get, others are volunteering to accept settlements and settlers, others are suggesting a truce to stop the uprising, and yet others are busy charting borders for the state before even going to an international conference. All that is rejected. We should learn the lesson of negotiation and we should not be generous with details, because they go on record as positions which we should implement.

[Zaytun] Some people maintain that you have had to resort to political moves because armed struggle has proved futile.

[Khalaf] Whoever says that is undoubtedly being tendentious. We have not begun our political moves just now. We started that when we introduced our phased program back in 1974. We have long searched for an Arab Hanoi but could not find one. On the contrary, we paid with our blood and the blood of hundreds of thousands of our sons in conflicts with the brothers for the preservation of the Palestinian identity and the armed struggle. We, at any rate, have not stopped any army from going to the aid of the people of Palestine and we have not prevented anyone from fighting. Anyone who has the ability to revive that option would be helping us in putting a limit to what we are compelled to do in the absence of a military option and of a truly supportive, unified Arab stand.

[Zaytun] Do you expect international detente to produce some change in favor of your cause?

[Khalaf] International detente is not necessarily a bad thing because it not only safeguards the interests of the two superpowers but might also help solve the explosive regional problems, especially the Palestinian problem. You have perhaps noticed that the winds of detente have reached Afghanistan and have brought the Soviets and the Afghan mujahidin together for the first time in Saudi Arabia; that they have brought Angola, South Africa, and Cuba together, resulting in an agreement on Namibian independence; and that they have also reached Nicaragua, where talks have been held between the two parties to the conflict.

That is bound to reflect on our region, which has already been affected by the winds of detente with the Iraq-Iran war coming to an end. That will help in gearing future efforts to the Palestinian question.

[Zaytun] Are you betting on Soviet guarantees to support you and strengthen your position?

[Khalaf] There can be no doubt that revolutionary movements without strong friends remain weak, particularly in the face of fierce campaigns and doubt-casting by the enemies and their agents. That might make them offer free concessions. However, we do rely on the Soviet friends who have encouraged our dialogue with the United States. We maintain permanent contacts with Moscow and that has resulted in the latest Palestinian initiative. Before that, however, we must rely on our own intrinsic safeguards. The uprising continues through our strength.

Although the Soviets are friends interested in solving our problems, they cannot force the United States to solve these problems to our satisfaction. In addition to our intrinsic power, we should not do away with the real weapons from which we derive power.

[Zaytun] Are you optimistic about the new Bush administration?

[Khalaf] I am optimistic about my own people. Continuation of the uprising will compel the United States, under the Bush administration, to take qualitative steps. Continuation of the uprising will also save time in the dialogue with the United States. Let us not forget that the United

States was forced into this dialogue under the pressure of the uprising and Shultz' failure to produce a Palestinian alternative to the PLO, end the uprising, and save Israel.

We realize that the first round of dialogue with the United States was devoted to exploring the Palestinian views and that the second round, to be held after Bush assumes power, will be a session for specific answers to specific questions with the aim of formulating a U.S. initiative carrying the name of Bush.

We consider that to be a positive development in the U.S. position because they are, for the first time, consulting us about the shape of their initiative. The U.S. ambassador in Tunis has told us that the main dialogue will come under the Bush administration.

[Zaytun] Some people are casting doubt on the PLO's delivery of aid to the occupied territory. What is your comment on that?

[Khalaf] These accusations and suspicions usually emanate from those who do not want to offer aid for the uprising. We have swallowed this insult and we have told those behind it: If you really are serious and want to aid the uprising, do not make your payment to the PLO, because you could make your payment to the UNRWA, which covers the needs of the Palestinian camps in the occupied territory. It can be trusted and it needs to cover a $60 million deficit in its budget for the occupied territory. I do not want to help these people to secure their objectives by revealing our ways of delivering funds. I will just cite one effective example. We received a meaningful message from the uprising leadership saying: Do not demean yourself by urging the Arabs to aid the uprising, because, regardless of whether they pay or not, we will continue our uprising even if we have to be content with just oil and thyme. I believe that certain Arabs should stop doubting the trust. Every Arab should offer what he can in support of the uprising without fear or favor. As for us, if we were thieves we would be shamed before the souls of the martyrs.

[Zaytun] Some people are saying that the funds which will be allocated for transforming the PLO offices into embassies should rather be allocated for the uprising.

[Khalaf] First of all, nothing has changed between office and embassy. In practical terms, the offices have been doing the job of embassies, or perhaps even more. It should be noted that most of the offices turned into embassies received gifts from the host countries in the form of land or premises for the embassy.

[Zaytun] Do you believe that by restricting the sums allowed into the occupied territory, the enemy has succeeded in harming the uprising?

[Khalaf] The enemy made that decision in the 3d month of the uprising. We are now in the 3d year of the uprising. The uprising is continuing, thanks to our people's ability to adapt to new conditions and our ability to get whatever aid is possible to them inside the occupied territory. Add to this the change in our people's way of life, which is now dominated by a magnificent phenomenon of social harmony.

[Zaytun] The dissidents in Syria, who had broken away from the PLO, have called for the formation of a new liberation organization as a substitute for the PLO as an answer to the recent PNC resolutions. What is your comment on that?

[Khalaf] Well, by God, I can only cite what Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told a [Palestinian National] Salvation Front delegation when they consulted him on the matter. He said: First control the Al-Yarmuk camp in the suburbs of Damascus before you try to control all the Palestinian people and if you can guarantee the recognition of a single state other than Syria, then we will support you. But woe to the infidels.

[Zaytun] Does this mean Syria is now convinced of the PLO steps? If so, why does it not end its boycott of the PLO?

[Khalaf] All I can say is that we are interested in improving relations with Syria, but that requires an interest on both sides and I believe Syria is prepared for that. There are other signs, such as Syria's commendation of Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state and the fact that it urged the Lebanese Amal Movement to sign a reconciliation agreement with the Palestinians east of Sidon. The matter, however, needs a push and a responsible stand and that is up to Syria itself. We are ready.

[Zaytun] Do you have any specific date for the announcement of a Palestinian provisional government?

[Khalaf] The matter has not matured yet, but there is a legal committee studying the matter and it will submit its recommendations to the expanded Palestinian meetings in the near future. I believe that declaration of a government would depend on international changes. If the idea of an international conference matures, then it will be possible to form such a government, because it would be a government for negotiation. We do not want it to be a repetition and a disfigured form of the government of all Palestine which failed to fulfill its mission after the 1948 war.

[Zaytun] Do you think the Zionist enemy will let the PLO have a free hand or will it commit foolish acts to "mix the cards"?

[Khalaf] We, of course, have not overlooked that. In addition to the suspect initiative it intends to announce in February with the aim of imposing autonomy in stages

and holding negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, we have information that the Israeli plan includes some practical steps which the enemy will take in the coming period, as follows:

1. Campaigns to assassinate Palestinian leaders in Arab and foreign locations and even inside the occupied territory.

2. Strikes at Palestinians in Lebanon with the aim of distracting us from our main objective, which is the uprising.

3. Provoking the Syrian forces in Lebanon with the aim of ending the Syrian role in Lebanon and creating a new preoccupation. This might include attacking Syrian strategic positions which the enemy claims contain chemical weapons factories.

4. Committing aggression against Jordan in the strategic area of Umm Qays and occupying new territory to create a new situation that would distract the Arabs from what is now going on.

5. Committing terrorist crimes in the world, similar to the U.S. airliner incident, to brand the Palestinians as terrorists and keep the world preoccupied with that.

6. Attacking some Jewish places of worship in Europe to incite Jews and world public opinion against the Palestinians.

7. Using the ugliest weapons of repression against our people in the occupied territory and carring out collective eviction (transfer) operations to end the uprising and divest the occupied territory of its people—a plan which we trust our people will foil.

PLO's 'Abbas Denies Delegation To Visit Syria

JN0202195089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
1 Feb 89 pp 1, 25

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas—Abu Mazin—has described the European stand as good and almost identical to the PLO stand on an international conference and its legal and political bases. In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, Abu Mazin said Western Europe is eager to convene an international conference in accordance with the specifications we want and to participate in the Middle East peace process.

He denied that Europe proposed a plan for peace in the Middle East to Yasir 'Arafat during the Madrid meeting. He said it pledged to carry out further political and diplomatic activity to ripen circumstances for the convocation of an international conference.

Abu Mazin stressed that what Faysal al-Husayni said after leaving prison in occupied Jerusalem does not at all violate or differ from what the PLO says and wants. He said Al-Husayni wants elections under international auspices and with PLO approval, provided these elections do not lead to self-rule. Abu Mazin added: This is not a violation of what we want. Al-Husayni linked his proposals in advance with PLO approval. This means he does not consider his proposals valid without the PLO's official approval. This is a commitment to the PLO and its resolutions and vision.

On the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Abu Mazin said the PLO communicated to Washington a few days ago its desire to resume the dialogue. He said the U.S. reply will be received within days, after which a date and venue for the session will be specified. He asserted that the delegation that began the dialogue with Washington is the same one that will continue talks and negotiations.

Abu Mazin denied that the PLO Executive Committee meeting, which will be held mid-February to discuss the issue of a provisional government, will result in the declaration of this government. He said that the purpose of the meeting will be to review the results of the legal study concerning the provisional government.

Nonetheless, he affirmed that the meeting will only settle an urgent issue, that of protocol, which appeared after Palestinian missions were upgraded to embassies in many states. The meeting will also settle issues pertaining to accrediting ambassadors and presenting their credentials to competent quarters, as well as their new situation resulting from the upgrading of representation.

On the PLO's ability to respond to the work and efforts of the Arab six-man committee entrusted with following up the Lebanese crisis, the Palestinian official said we are ready to respond to any Lebanese solution preserving the existence and security of our people in Lebanon. He affirmed that, under a real and strong government capable of maintaining the security of Lebanon and the Palestinian camps, the PLO will not need its military presence in Lebanon.

Abu Mazin considered the success of the six-man committee to depend in the first place on the Lebanese response and unity, as well as on the response of the parties involved in Lebanon to the committee's efforts and moves.

He denied in this regard that a Palestinian delegation will visit Damascus. He affirmed there is nothing new in Palestinian-Syrian relations, However, he said the PLO is now fully eager to maintain some sort of political coordination among the Arab states concerned in the international conference—Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—to prepare the political climate for such a conference.

Qaddumi Denies PLO Contacts With Israel

AU0302093389 Rome ANSA in English 0837 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, [no dateline as received]—The head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Office Faruq Qaddumi denied here Thursday that the PLO is preparing for secret meetings with Israel in a European country. During a stopover at Rome's Fiumicino Airport on his way back to Tunis from Lisbon, he said, "there is no truth in all this. We will never take part in a secret meeting with Israel".

Qaddumi stressed the "fundamental role and utility" of the European countries in achieving a Middle Eastern peace. Announcing that the PLO will shortly upgrade its mission in Lisbon, he said that talks there and in Madrid with the EC's troika of foreign ministers covered the importance of achieving an international peace conference and the moves needed to achieve it.

"It is important that it should be convened as soon as possible," the PLO official argued, "to end once and for all the terrorist methods that Israel is using against the Palestinian people". Qaddumi also called on the U.N. to step in with its own "presence" to ensure Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

PLO Radio on U.S. Veto at Security Council

JN0202211689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1757 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The passing of the draft resolution submitted by the Nonaligned Movement's group at the United Nations calling for the condemnation of the Zionist entity because of its escalation of terrorist measures against our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland has been obstructed as usual by the U.S. veto.

As a matter of fact, the use of the veto by the U.S. Government on this very issue draws attention as the Zionist terrorist measures that have been recently taken in the latest wave of escalation have been taken in implementation of a decision made by the enemy's cabinet in an official meeting. This decision was announced and made public by the enemy government. Nobody uncovered this decision or labored to find that such a decision had been made. The Zionist entity itself made the decision and announced it to the world in broad daylight.

If the U.S. Government has allowed itself to use the veto, how would the United States justify its behavior toward the state terrorism being perpetrated by the Zionist entity on a large scale and in a public and exposed manner? Besides, can the use of the veto by the U.S. Government serve the cause of peace or peace orientations or even the very U.S. talk on peace? It is clear and obvious that the Zionist entity's immunity is collapsing and declining at international fora and that the U.S. veto is the only and last lifebuoy left for this entity. However, is this lifebuoy enough? And will it serve its purpose all the time?

The Zionist entity is displaying indifference, apathy, and provocation against the sentiments, norms, and laws of the international community, depending on this wall of total U.S. bias. Nay, the Zionist entity has gone to excesses in this abnormal behavior and conduct, depending on its not being a part of the world, but only a part of the belligerence of U.S. might.

We believe that this abnormal behavior and conduct by the Zionist entity will lead to catastrophic consequences—consequences that neither the Zionist entity nor even the United States will be able to bear, notwithstanding that the latter stands alongside the Zionists against the interests of the Palestinian people and also against the sentiments of the entire world. Be it as it may, daylight emerges at the end of night and difficulties are bound to be crowned by the realization of victory.

Fatah Asks Palestinians To 'Ignore' Hamas Calls

JN0302064489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] The Fatah movement, the biggest PLO faction, has accused the Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, of failure to appreciate the importance of the past 13 months of the uprising and of attempts to divide the people and the uprising's Unified National Leadership by adopting stands on behalf of hostile groups with a negative aim.

Fatah, which is led by Yasir 'Arafat, called on the Palestinians to ignore calls for a strike by Hamas because such actions exacerbate the suffering of the people in the occupied territory.

PNSF Denounces 'Arafat-'Awn Meeting

JN0202191089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] A spokesman for the PNSF command has denounced the 'Arafat-'Awn meeting and 'Arafat's suspect statements. The spokesman described this meeting as an attempt by 'Arafat to harm the national revolution in the service of the facist, isolationist scheme in Lebanon. The spokesman affirmed that the Palestinian rifle in Lebanon will always be directed against Israel and its agents and their capitulationist schemes. He also affirmed the PNSF's support for the legitimate government under Dr Salim al-Huss and the front's rejection of all settlement plans proposed by 'Awn and the agents.

Egypt

Sofaer Returns After Brief Visit to Tel Aviv

NC0202184989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser at the U.S. State Department and head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, arrived in Cairo this afternoon after a short visit to Tel Aviv lasting a few hours.

The U.S. envoy said on arrival that the talks he held with the Israeli officials were fruitful and that any difficulties could be solved because both the Egyptian and Israeli sides clearly desire to exert all possible efforts to resolve all difficulties and overcome obstacles. He added that he will present a report to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the results of his talks in Israel.

Asked if there is going to be another round of talks, Sofaer said he hopes that the talks will continue and that the dialogue between the two sides will always be constant.

Presents Proposals

NC0202211889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Abraham Sofaer, U.S. State Department legal adviser and head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks. Sofaer arrived here earlier this evening from Israel.

MENA has learned that while in Israel today Sofaer met Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and briefed him on Egypt's viewpoint regarding Tabah. Egypt insists that Israel must withdraw from Tabah and that this withdrawal must not be linked to the other outstanding matters.

MENA has also learned that the U.S. official presented proposals to both Egypt and Israel, and that Egypt will study these proposals and define its position on them accordingly. Once these proposals are accepted, intensive talks between Egyptian and Israeli officials are expected to begin to reach a final settlement of the problem. Sofaer is scheduled to return to his country tomorrow, Friday.

Leaves Cairo for Home

NC0302081189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0739 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Ambassador Abraham Sofaer, director of the U.S. State Department's Legal Affairs Department and head of the U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, left Cairo this morning for home.

He arrived in Cairo from Israel yesterday and held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on new proposals on Tabah as part of the U.S. efforts to resolve pending problems connected with the implementation of the international arbitration panel ruling and the Israeli withdrawal from Tabah.

President Mubarak Comments on Tabah Dispute

NC0202154689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1243 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Remarks by President Husni Mubarak in response to questions by unnidentified newspaper chief editors, following his inauguration of the new Red Crescent Hospital in Cairo on 2 February—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified chief editor] With your permission, Mr President: The subject may be unrelated to the present event, but I know that you are ready to answer any question on issues with which Egypt is concerned. The question is: What has happened, or what is happening, in connection with the Tabah issue? I ask this because your excellency held a meeting this morning on this matter. You also made some remarks yesterday. However, we would like to know more about this.

[Mubarak] I made a statement yesterday on the Tabah issue. I said I do not understand what the Israeli Government wants. You noted that, for some time, I have been saying that Israel honors its promises. I said that to reassure the Egyptian people, the Egyptian citizen, and the Arabs that Israel will honor its promises when we reach and sign an agreement.

We had a dispute over Tabah. We reached an agreement, which the Americans signed, on how to handle the Tabah issue, so that a certain tribunal could decide on the matter. We agreed on that. The tribunal met and encountered problems until we decided on the arbitration question.

The arbitration panel announced its ruling on 29 September. The deadline for implementation was 45 days, or 60 days I think, after that. The deadline was 60 days after, 29 November. Israel said it was occupied with elections. We applied for a 1-month extension. Then they said the government was still busy. We applied for another 1-month extension until 29 January. Issues related to sovereignty are not open to discussion. They are asking for another extension.

We would like to know why they are playing for time. After we told the citizens that they respect their promises, we find them breaching their promises. This makes one lose confidence in any dealing with Israel. We want to build confidence. They are calling for normalization of relations. No one can force any citizen to deal with a state unless he is convinced that he can do so properly.

This habit of procrastination and stalling does not inspire confidence in any dealing. There is a hotel there. They want to make their withdrawal contingent upon the settlement of the hotel problem. Sovereignty is one thing and

the hotel is something else. Then they talk about compensation. They are demanding 70 million [currency not specified]. Then they say someone owns a tourist village worth 4 or 5 million, and its value may not exceed 500,000.

What is the matter? Are we giving the impression that Israel does not honor its promises, just because of a hotel? All citizens say that Israel does not respect its promises. It is insisting on making its withdrawal from Tabah contingent upon a settlement of the hotel issue. They say it is worth 70 million. What is this hotel which is worth 70 million? Let the people negotiate.

It is not a question of money. If we are going to occupy ourselves with money, I can raise an old subject. Article 8 of the [Camp David] peace accord stipulates that a committee be formed to study the question of compensation. I could have included this problem in the compensation article. I refrained from raising this issue. Why is Israel doing this? Why is the Israeli Administration doing this? This will create a gap in relations between Egyptian and Israeli citizens.

There definitely are Israeli citizens who want peace and their number is increasing. We, too, want peace, but not in this manner. It will be useless to use pressure as a method. Withdrawal from the land is a method we welcome. You would then know that I respect you because you honor your commitments. This is what I have been saying. As for the hotel, I can negotiate with you after withdrawal. We can negotiate. We will not take anything by force, nor will we cause problems, because we are eager to improve relations.

This method and the method of exerting pressure would not be accepted by the smallest state in the world. We will not accept it. The arbitration panel has issued a ruling. We either honor our commitments or we don't. There is no other way. If you honor your commitment, then you should withdraw. They tell us: Yes, we will withdraw, and things like that. Then they come the next day and go back to square one, saying: No. We will not withdraw. Give us 5 weeks more and we will withdraw.

This is not the way states talk to each other. There are agreements. Why are they doing all this? And in whose interest is it? Do you mean to compel me to normalize relations? If so, I tell you no. If you behave like this, no one will want to deal with you at all. I tell you: Give a good example and a proper method of dealing to the Egyptian and Arab citizens. This will generate confidence.

You should encourage confidence, but do not tell me: There is a hotel. By God! Must the world come to an end because of a hotel owned by a person called (Baba Shado) or I don't know what? Yet they took oil worth millions. I cannot understand this. Really, I cannot understand their line of thinking.

[Chief editor] But with regard to the subject of sovereignty, I believe that there is no dispute?

[Mubarak] The question of sovereignty is indisputable. There is the arbitration panel's ruling. Why don't they withdraw? Why?

[Chief editor] Mr President, they seek to extend the period. What is the use if the consultations continue on the same level?

[Mubarak] If I were to continue without fixing a specific and early date for handing over the land in accordance with the arbitration panel's ruling, I would have doubts that would make me think once, twice, and thrice: What is going on? Is this a method of pressure? If so, then pressure would be of no avail. Even the smallest state in the world would not accept pressure.

Furthermore, we are neighbors. Dealings with a neighbor are supposed to take place in such a way as to make people want to cooperate; they are not supposed to alienate them. The method they are pursuing is alienating. We will not accept pressure. They should withdraw from the land. The argument about the hotel is not linked with withdrawal from the land or the principle of sovereignty. The distinction is very clear, like the difference between white and black.

[Chief editor] Couldn't Israel's stand on the Tabah issue be linked with its stand on the Palestinian issue and recent developments?

[Mubarak] If you think so, then why not link it with all international issues? Such a link would constitute pressure. Give a good example. Give us reason to respect you. We used to respect Israel because it honored its commitments. I have often said so. It withdrew on 25 April during Menahem Begin's days, despite the fact that the talks with him were most difficult. However, he committed himself and then honored his commitment. For this reason he obtained all respect, despite the fact that some people disagree.

However, we now have an arbitration panel's ruling. Nevertheless, they say let us extend it for 1 month, 2 months, and then another month; we shall meet in 2 weeks' time; and then they say: no, we will not withdraw. There is the panel's ruling and it must be respected. As for the hotel, we will negotiate on it, but not under pressure.

[Chief editor] Mr President, the Israelis are using the tourist facilities in Tabah as a pretext. There have, however, been similar facilities in Sharm al-Shaykh and in other areas from which they have already withdrawn. That is to say, there have been precedents in which the Egyptians established their good faith and proved that Egypt is not a country which...

[Mubarak, interrupting] Our intentions are good, as you say. The Israelis demolished Yamit [settlement in Sinai] prior to their withdrawal. Now, all this business about the hotel. I do not care about the hotel. I want nothing other than sovereignty over my land. Am I going to establish this sovereignty or begin negotiating over a hotel? It just does not make sense that two countries should make their relations contingent upon a hotel or some bungalows which are said to be worth 4 or 5 million.

[Chief editor] The Israelis want special treatment in relation to their access to Tabah. There should...

[Mubarak, interrupting] Look, my friend, we do not change our principles. The Israelis even go to Sharm al-Shaykh, using their passports. I cannot grant Israel a privilege which no other country in the world has. If they want to use their passports they are welcome. If they want simpler procedures as neighbors, that is fine. But they cannot have access without passports. If I am to allow people into my country without passports, people could kill each other and I would not know what was going on.

No, land is sacred, and so is sovereignty. I do not mind special treatment for tourists if they want to come and stay in the hotel and pay money. Why not? Israeli tourists always come here and to Sharm al-Shaykh. We have no objection. But there is a certain way to go about it.

[Chief editor] The United States guaranteed the agareement and has been a partner to all the negotiations, before and since the arbitration...

[Mubarak, interrupting] I really am tired of this American role of the postman who keeps carrying mail back and forth. However, I do not want to go into this now as there is a new U.S. president and I would rather reserve judgement. The United States is a partner to the peace process and has a long role to play still in the peace process. I am waiting for the U.S. president to make his calculations and I know he has much to attend to.

[Chief editor] The Israelis seem unable so far to absorb the new changes in the Palestinian position. If the Israelis remain intransigent despite these changes, what is going to happen?

[Mubarak] When President Anwar al-Sadat went to Jerusalem, he undertook an initiative which opened the door and removed many psychological barriers. Al-Sadat took a bold step which was followed by certain developments.

Now is the time for Israel to match such a move. Israel has not taken the necessary step. Another daring step was that taken by Yasir 'Arafat when he recognized Resolutions 242 and 338, denounced terrorism, and recognized Israel's existence within safe borders. All these were longstanding demands, and there should be reciprocal Israeli action.

As for the recent Israeli announcement which has been described as a new initiative, I say that for negotiations to take palce, final positions should be spelled out. You cannot negotiate one step at a time. This makes the other side suspicious. These Israeli attitudes—even concerning Tabah—are hardly reassuring for Israel's interlocutors. What is being offered is autonomy, but what after that? Are we going to negotiate later on the final settlement? The frequency of such confidence-eroding actions are not particularly conducive to progress on any issue.

Opposition Parties Support Mubarak on Tabah

NC0202173289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—The leaders of the Egyptian opposition parties have announced their full support for the statement made by President Husni Mubarak on Tabah, and for the message he addressed to Israel, stressing the need for its complete and instant withdrawal from Tabah.

At a meeting held today in the Headquarters of the Socialist Labor Party in the People's Assembly, the party leaders asserted that the entire Egyptian people support Mubarak's firm stand, and stressed that Israel must adhere to the ruling of the international arbitration panel. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, members of the opposition parties studied the possibility of resuming dialogue with the NDP. They stressed the importance of guaranteeing the impartiality of the elections and consulting opposition parties about new laws.

The meeting also reviewed recent events in the Lawyers Association and their consequences. The Al-Wafd Party leader denied his party's involvement in these events.

Attending the meeting were NPUG leader Dr Khalid Muhiy al-Din; Socialist Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad; Socialist Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri; and Al-Wafd leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din.

Mubarak Sends Message to PLO's 'Arafat

NC0302100089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0933 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—PLO Representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that President Husni Mubarak sent a message to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on new developments with regard to the Palestinian issue and the need, during the forthcoming stage, to intensify Arab efforts to convene an international peace conference this year.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal said that Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, conveyed this message to PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, during a

meeting last night. Kamal, who attended the meeting, added that the talk fell within the framework of continuing contacts between Egyptian and Palestinian officials to coordinate their stands on the Palestinian issue.

Kamal said now that the PLO has rejected Shamir's plan to introduce autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which he announced 2 days ago, the PLO must submit, within the framework of the international support it has received, radical amendments to the plan through open diplomatic channels with the Soviet Union, the United States, and Western Europe in coordination with the Arab brothers concerned. He called for the convening of an urgent Arab summit to examine the developments in the Palestinian issue and warned of the consequences of delaying such a summit for unacceptable reasons.

It is worth noting that Mahmud 'Abbas left Cairo this morning following a 1-day visit to Egypt.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Makes 2-Day Visit

Received at Airport

NC0202151089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received him at the airport. [passage omitted]

Meets With Mubarak

NC0202160389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text) Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—This evening President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Attending the meeting were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari.

On Lebanon Committee's Efforts

NC0202182089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1613 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Upon his arrival in Cairo today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that he is bringing a cordial message to President Husni Mubarak from His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad of Kuwait. He added that he will discuss bilateral relations with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on mediation efforts currently being made by Kuwait to resolve the Lebanese issue, Shaykh al-Jabir said: In Tunis, I met with Lebanese leaders like Dr Salim al-Huss, General Michel 'Awn, and Mr Husayn al-Husayni, as an initial step. He pointed out that the talks indicated everyone's desire to achieve stability, noting that the Lebanese issue is not an easy one and that it goes back 15 years. Shaykh al-Jabir added: We do not have a magic wand to resolve Lebanon's problems. We hope the Lebanese will themselves help to solve the problems.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister pointed out that there are indications that all the parties concerned want to acheive reconciliation in Lebanon. As a six-member committee, he said, we are trying to help the Lebanese to solve their problems. I can say that talks have shown that there is hope of reform and stability. Al-Jabir noted that the Lebanese obviously want to establish stability, adding that current efforts concentrate on filling the present constitutional vacuum in Lebanon.

For his part, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt is not estranged from the Arab world or the Lebanese issue. He noted that Egypt gives its blessing to all efforts to resolve this issue.

On Meeting with Mubarak

NC0202182689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his appreciation of his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today. He said: I had the honor of meeting with the president to discuss issues which concern both our countries.

Shaykh al-Jabir asserted that President Husni Mubarak and Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad are linked by strong fraternal relations. He said the president had entrusted him with a message to his brother the Kuwaiti Amir.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister noted that talks to restore peace in Lebanon are making progress. He said: I am pleased to say that there is great hope, particularly after our meeting with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Prime Minister Michel 'Awn, and Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. He added that all want peace and reform in Lebanon, and this represents a great hope. He also noted that another round of talks will be held with spiritual leaders, and that a meeting will be held in Kuwait in the near future. [passage omited]

Shaykh al-Jabir said that during his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad tomorow, Friday, he will discuss the work of the six-member committee on Lebanon, the Syrian presence in that country, and the possibility of obtaining Syria's help in ending the tragic situation there.

Asked whether he will undertake mediation between Cairo and Damascus, Al-Jabir said: There is no mediation between Egypt and Syria and I hope there will be no need for mediation. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Lawyers Association Events

Wafd Party Role Examined

JN2901094589 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Jan 89 p 20

[Excerpt] AL-WATAN has learned from ranking Wafdist sources that Dr Nu'man Jum'ah, vice president of the Wafd Party and member of the higher committee, played a large role in banding together the Wafdist lawyers against Ahmad al-Khawajah believing that Al-Khawajah had divulged Dr Nu'man's secret relationship with the Israeli Embassy.

One of the lawyers had been accused of working as a chauffeur at the Israeli Embassy. When he was interrogated before the association, he mentioned that he worked as a lawyer at the Israeli Academic Center and presented evidence and documents written on official embassy paper.

He mentioned, too, that Dr Nu'man Jum'ah also worked for the Israeli Embassy. He presented a list of some of the lawyers invited to attend Israel's national day celebrations.

The Wafdist source added that the Lawyers Association Council has retained the interrogation papers so they would not be exploited for private use against Dr Nu'man Jum'ah, who believes that Ahmad al-Khawajah is the one who leaked them. The issues accumulated until 2 weeks ago when Nu'man succeeded in removing Ahmad al-Khawajah from membership of the Wafd higher committee. The struggle then was transferred from inside the Wafd Party to the Lawyers Association Headquarters. [passage ommitted]

Association's 'Asfur Speaks

JN3101174289 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Jan 89 pp 16-17

[Interview with Dr Muhammad 'Asfur, chairman of the Provisional Committee of the Egyptian Lawyers Association, by Mustafa Bakri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bakri] Why did you accept this mission [to become chairman of the provisional committee]?

['Asfur] I accepted this mission to affirm once again that I will not be running in the elections for the Lawyers Association presidency in the coming elections. Anyone who is a member of this committee is not entitled to run for elections. Also, I accepted it because I strongly feel that there must be a change in the course pursued by the Association Council.

[Bakri] Why is there a need to change the course of the Association Council?

['Asfur] There are many reasons. For example, I will mention the association's fund, which was deposited in the Merchants Bank and which amounts to around 16 million [Egyptian] pounds, particularly as the bank has stated that it suffered losses of around 100 million pounds. This means there was misconduct by depositing the whole fund in one bank.

[Bakri] Did this result from bad intentions or is it the opposite?

['Asfur] I cannot accuse anybody of bad intentions. We are currently working to save a sinking boat. Therefore, the first step that has to be made is to call in the Central Audit Bureau to investigate the matter.

[Bakri] Is there any reason other than the fund that made you accept this position?

['Asfur] Certainly, there are other reasons. Among these reasons is that the Lawyers Association does not adequately play its professional and union role. It also does not play its national role as it should do. It even does not protect the interests of its trade unionist members. They have failed to do this. There are many miserable situations, including the mistreatment of lawyers at police stations and other matters. These matters need investigation. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] You say that the association is not playing its national role as it should do. How is that?

['Asfur] We blame the Association Council because any intervention in party issues is forbidden and because we believe in the national character of the association.

[Bakri] But Ahmad al-Khawajah has asserted more than once the national character of the association vis-a-vis some parties which aim to take control of it?

['Asfur] Al-Khawajah has given the Nasirites a role bigger than their true size although the president and the council should not differentiate between different ideological currents.

[Bakri] The council gives freedom to all forces and not just the Nasirites to express their opinions through legitimate means.

['Asfur] The seminars held concerned certain currents only. This is so despite the fact that the association represents the people's political conscience and not party conscience. Or, was this because Ahmad al-Khawajah is a Nasirite? [passage omitted]

[Bakri] But Al-Khawajah believes that what happened constituted an attempt by the Wafd and Muslim Brotherhood to control the association.

['Asfur] If I always affirm the association's national role, then should I allow them to do so? However, I like to say that the Association Council, from which the extraordinary General Assembly withdrew its confidence, was comprised mostly of Wafdists.

[Bakri] But, there are some who believe that what happened in the association was a reflection of what happened in the General Assembly of the Wafd Party?

['Asfur] What do you mean?

[Bakri] I mean preventing Al-Khawajah from participating in the General Assembly of the Wafd Party.

['Asfur] It was decided to ban him from running for elections to the Wafd Party Higher Committee because he did not attend meetings. [passage omitted]

Al-Khawajah Interviewed

JN3101160989 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Jan 89 pp 14-15

[Interview with Ahmad al-Khawajah, president of the Egyptian Lawyers Association, by Mustafa Bakri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bakri] What is your understanding of what happened last week in the Lawyers Association?

[Al-Khawajah] Basically, we are approaching elections inside the association in about 3 months. The two assailants, Muhammad Fahim and Ahmad Nasir, know well that they cannot win the elections except by controlling the ballots. They are capable of forgery, and what happened last Thursday is an example of this. At 1400, before 200 people had arrived at the association, they declared that the General Assembly had convened and decided to vote no-confidence in the Association Council and president and chose a committee to run the association. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] But the other side asserts that 1500 to 3000 members participated in the General Assembly's meeting.

[Al-Khawajah] The journalists who entered the association building can vouch that until 1700, Muhammad Fahim and Ahmad Nasir had brought in no more than 300 lawyers. The required quorum for an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly is 1500 lawyers, and I will be satisfied with their decision no matter what their stand toward me or the association may be.

It is enough for me to say that 400 lawyers have submitted written statements in which they stated that they came to the association building to declare their rejection of the convening of the General Assembly and to observe the correct number of people in it. I put this in the police statement last Thursday and gave them a copy of these statements so that no one can say we made them up. The statements are signed by those who wrote them. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] Dr Muhammad 'Asfur feels that by taking charge of the association, he responded to the demands of the lawyers who attended the meeting to save the boat from sinking?

[Al-Khawajah] How is that?

[Bakri] He believes that you wasted more than 16 million [Egyptian] pounds of the lawyers' money deposited in the Merchants Bank, which suffered heavy losses.

[Al-Khawajah] Dr 'Asfur's talk about the bank deposits is provocative because the Merchants Bank is not only composed of the Lawyers Association. It is composed of five professional associations, the Al-Ahli Bank, the Al-Sharq Insurance Company, and other public sectors. If a disaster befell the bank, then our role would be to preserve, not attack it. The money is deposited in the bank because, first, we are partners in it and, second, because the bank pays higher than market interest rates.

Dr 'Asfur should have investigated the matter before bringing it up. After this subject was brought up by some people, the maturity date for more than 5 million pounds of deposits came up. We cashed them all and bought saving bonds from the Cairo Bank with most of the money. The bank did not refuse to pay these deposits for us, so we cannot start suspecting it.

[Bakri] What is your response to Dr 'Asfur's statement that the association failed to carry out its national duty but used to appease certain currents, particularly the Nasirite current, in its seminars?

[Al-Khawajah] If this is the beginning of Dr 'Asfur's talk, then what a wretched thing he says because it is clear that he is repeating what Muhammad Fahim and Ahmad Nasir are saying without knowing what he is talking about. It is not true that the Nasirites in the association take more than their right. The association has never held a seminar for the sake of the Nasirites or any others.

The association's seminars always dealt with human rights, democracy, and the supremacy of law. But, allowing groups of lawyers to hold their private seminars—

like permitting the Nasirites for example to celebrate 'Abd al-Nasir's anniversary—means that the conference is held by Nasirite lawyers, not the association.

The Lawyers Association cannot be blamed for allowing a political current to hold a political celebration inside the association. These permits are issued by the Association Council, not the president. [passage omitted]

[Bakri] To what extent can we say there is a connection between the decision of the Wafd Party not to extend an invitation to you to take part in the party's General Assembly and what happened in the Lawyers Association last week?

[Al-Khawajah] What I can say is that I was not a party to any dispute in the Wafd because I do not work in the Wafd and I am not looking for a job in it. [passage omitted]

Illegal Wearing of Military Uniforms Reported

NC3001172689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Recently it has been observed that some citizens have been wearing uniforms similar to the official uniforms worn by Armed Forces personnel. As a result, these citizens have been regarded as suspect and placed under surveillance, with the knowledge of the competent authorities. Moreover, some of these citizens have been investigated and sent for trial.

Hence, the Defense Ministry draws the citizens' attention to Presidential Decree No 11 for the year 1967, amended by Decree No 25 for the year 1969, which bans those who are not members of the Armed Forces and the police force from wearing official uniforms or bearing insignia identical or similar to those worn or borne by members of the Ground, Naval, and Air Forces or members of the security forces. Violators of this decree face a prison sentence and a fine not exceeding 300 pounds.

In addition to this, Article 156 of the Penal Code, amended by Law No. 29 for the year 1982, states that anyone who publicly wears an official uniform without being entitled by virtue of his rank to do so, or publicly bears the distinguished mark of an occupation or profession under false pretenses, is punishable by a jail term not exceeding 1 year.

The Defense Ministry is confident of the citizens' vigilance and their acceptance of this reminder. Meanwhile, it urges them not to wear these uniforms out of respect for the law, so that they may preserve their rights and so that they may not be subjected to criminal investigation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan King's Message

LD0302091189 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution received Mr. Ahmed Othman, speaker of the parliament of sisterly Morocco and special envoy of Hassan II, king of Morocco.

Mr. Othman has handed the leader of revolution a written letter from King Hassan II relating to the Maghreb action and the oncoming Maghreb summit.

Present at this meeting were the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the representative of Great Al-Jamahiriyah resident in Morocco and the ambassador of Morocco accredited to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Communication, Transport Accord With Malta Noted

LD0202214589 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Malta, 2 Feb (JANA)—A protocol of agreement was signed in Valetta this afternoon between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta on communications and maritime transport.

The protocol, which was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport and Pierre Muscat , the Parliament's secretary for post and telecommunications affairs, opens the way for cooperation in post services, civilian aviation, and maritime transport and also calls for the opening of an office of the General National Company of Maritime Transport in Malta. The signing ceremony was attended by the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau to Malta and the members of the Libyan Arab and Maltese sides. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Ivorian Minister Arrives With Houphouet Message

AB2601113089 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 26 Jan 89

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, yesterday received in audience Mr Camille Alliali, Ivorian minister of state at the president's office, accompanied by Mr (Bossey Kpala Leon), adviser at the Ivorian president's office.

The audience took place in the presence of Mr Ahmed Ould Jiddou, minister of mines and industry; and Mrs (Deladjo Nedjiebah), adviser at the CMSN president's office.

After the audience, the Ivorian minister of state told reporters that he brought a message from President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to Col Maaouya Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state. He pointed out that Mauritania and Ivory Coast maintain excellent and fraternal relations based on fruitful friendship and mutual respect.

Morocco

Zairian President Arrives in Marrakech 1 Feb

LD0102131989 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Marrakech, Feb. 1 (MAP)—Zairi President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived Tuesday in Marrakech on a visit to Morocco.

President Mobutu Sese Seko was greeted upon arrival at the Marrakech Menara Airport by Premier Azzeddine Laraki, Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri, Governor of the Marrakech Province Dr Mohamed Belhami [name as received] and several other civil and military officials.

Received by King Hassan

LD0302040389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received at the Royal Palace in Marrakech this afternoon Marshal Sese Seko Mobutu, president of the Republic of Zaire, who is on a private visit to our country.

Sudan

Hasan al-Turabi on Israel's Support to Rebels

NC0202163589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Feb (MENA)—Dr Hasan al-Turabi, Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today stated that a document adjusting Sudan's foreign policy has been drawn up. He noted that the document's contents will be conveyed to fraternal and friendly countries, so that Sudan's image abroad may be rectified, national interests served, and the country's stability protected.

In a statement upon returning to Sudan from Tnis today, Al-Turabi said the Foreign Ministry is presently holding expanded contacts to serve Sudanese interests.

Regarding reports that Colonel John Garang, southern Sudanese rebel leader, is in Israel now, Dr al-Turabi disclosed that local and foreign reports indicate Israel is trying to create sedition and support the rebellion in Sudan. If Garang grants Israel such an opportunity, he noted, he will be betraying the principle of loyalty to the homeland to which every citizen is committeed.

Views Political Situation

PM0102131489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 89 p 4

[Interview with Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, National Islamic Front leader, deputy prime minister, justice minister, foreign minister, and prosecutor general, by Muhammad al-Hashemi al-Hamidi and Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] What are the characteristics of the current political situation, now that the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] has pulled out and a coalition has been formed between you and the Ummah Party?

[Al-Turabi] Although Sudan's history has fluctuated between absolute military power and absolute power under an expanded democratic system, the history of the present democratic process—which we hope will continue permanently—fluctuates between concern for national unity, in a country torn by local loyalties and threatened by divisions, and concern for the authorities' performance. The accord government was an attempt to accommodate all political forces on a single political base.

But it seems that the complexity of the political structure paralyzed the government, confused its policies, and distorted its image among the public. This is why the regime moved from a formula guaranteeing an expanded unity to a formula guaranteeing high efficiency and complete harmony within the executive, allowing pluralism in parliament but not in the executive, which naturally requires both unity and effectiveness.

[Interviewer] The Unionists always say that their withdrawal from the government is attributable to the government's position on peace. The Ummah Party and the National Islamic Front [NIF] are accused of not paying enough attention to the peace issue.

[Al-Turabi] True, they did say that after they pulled out, but in the opposition's address yesterday they said that their withdrawal reflected the revolution of the hungry! They have decided to assume an opposition stance—the stance they should have assumed when the uprising began! They are now trying to portray history as supporting their opposition stance. In fact, at one point they linked the peace agreement with their withdrawal from government, even though the dispute between them and the prime minister over the peace agreement was resolved. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] When will the government be formed, now that it has been confined to two parties, that is, the Ummah and the NIF?

[Al-Turabi] First of all, the government is not confined to the Ummah Party and the NIF. In fact, it includes a number of southern and regional parties as well. We do not consider the allocation of duties a problem, though in this new situation we will shoulder a much greater

responsibility and burden than our government representation reflects. But we will continue to apply the previous rule, namely, to base the number of ministerial seats on the number of parliamentary seats. The formation will not be delayed. It will take place in a few days' time. It could be announced immediately after the results of the vote on the prime minister's statement.

[Interviewer] Will the State Council undergo a change?

[Al-Turabi] We hope that restrictions to and cuts in government posts will be applied to the State Council. Our position has always been that five heads are more than necessary, as only one head is needed. We will probably be unable to achieve this because it requires an amendment to the Constitution. Besides, we have still not secured the two-thirds majority required. If it proves difficult to achieve, then changes will be confined to the council's members, because they were appointed in the light of past political relations, which have now changed.

[Interviewer] What is the new government's program?

[Al-Turabi] Regarding the program, we are pursuing the same one on which the previous government was based. As for priorities, we will concentrate on resolving problems and enhancing the effectiveness of the government's work. The accord program was obstructed by the government's internal tensions, which prevented its prompt implementation. Regarding our foreign policy priorities, they will be: First, to strengthen relations with the neighboring countries and implement the new system which we have proposed, namely, the collective cooperation program. It will be supervised by permanent institutions. This is a new method in our relations with the neighboring states. We have proposed it to Ethiopia, Chad, and Libya.

Obviously the peace issue will necessarily be among our pressing priorities in order to combat the vestiges of the campaigns which portrayed Sudan as an aggressor rather than a victim of aggression. It was also portrayed as indifferent toward human suffering resulting from wars. We will try to remedy the crux of the problem by besieging John Garang with peace initiatives so that he will return to the negotiating table. Internally, we will continue to send supplies to the South, whether or not a breakthrough in peace negotiations is achieved. We will provide reinforcements in order to defend territory and security. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Many observers say that Sudan's foreign policy is unsettled and accuse it of being biased toward certain neighbors. As a result, some neighbors are not in complete harmony with Sudan. What is the future of the agreement with the Libyan Jamahiriyah and what is the status of relations with Egypt?

[Al-Turabi] True, Sudan's foreign policy seems to have suffered some kind of disruption as a result of the transition and the changes in the old foreign policy, which used to focus on a single axis, ignoring one front and attacking another. So it was very loyal, yet very hostile, whether in Arab relations, relations with neighbors, or international relations. Today we seek to maintain a degree of independence and nonalignment in our strongest and closest relations. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Has a date been set for the Sudanese prime minister's visit to Egypt?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Egypt early next month, in order to impart an impetus to the brotherhood charter, achieve more of its objectives, and strengthen Egyptian-Sudanese relations. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Attacks Administration

EA3101190089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jan—Al-Sharif Zayn al-Abidin al-Hindi, secretary-general of the Democratic Unionist Party and leader of the unionist opposition, has described the administration as feeble with a great chasm between it and its performance in as much as the administration is unable to provide the citizens security and food.

In his reply delivered on behalf of the opposition to the statement of the prime minister before the Constituent Assembly yesterday, Al-Hindi gave an account of the problems facing the country and spoke about price rises and inflation. He described the prime miniter's address as being replete with optimism and [words indistinct], saying that what concerns us in Sudan is how we should rule and not who should rule. Al-Hindi went on to describe the citizens' living conditions, saying that the pay of the worker was inadequate to fulfil his daily commitments and that the worker was totally unable to meet his needs for medicines, clothing and shelter.

He said security in the country had deteriorated: armed robbery had proliferated to the extent of reaching the Blue Nile region in the center of the country, and in the Darfur region, things had reached the stage where no one could move about in it. Al-Hindi described the prime minister's stance as one of rejecting peace in the context of the peace initiative put forward by the former's party and John Garang's movement in Addis Ababa last November—the initiative which had been rejected by the government Ummah party and Islamic Front coalition.

Assembly Passes Emergency Legislation 1 Feb

EA0202081989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb (SUNA)—The Constituent Assembly (parliament) has passed in its today's session the regulation for emergency with 81 votes against 12 votes. The parliament failed to amend the emergency regulation due to the members attending the session do not constitute the needed quorum [as received]. The

Committee of Legislation and Legal Affairs in the Assembly submitted a report on the regulation of emergency, asking for introducing of preventive detention for 10 days, liable for renewal.

Tunisia

Jordan's Al-Qasim Received by President

JN0202173689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Tunis] Tunis—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received at the Carthage Palace in Tunis this morning Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to the president the greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Husayn.

The talks dealt with the march of fraternal relations binding the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Tunisia. Al-Qasim and the Tunisian president voiced satisfaction over the level attained in these relations. They also expressed the desire to work to further strengthen and develop these relations in the interests of the two countries and the two peoples.

The talks touched on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and the efforts being made to support peace efforts and stability in the Middle East. Al-Qasim and the Tunisian president reviewed the results of the works of the six-member Arab League committee and the good offices it has been exerting to help Lebanon restore its unity, independence, and total sovereignty on its territory and enable it to restore normalcy.

President Ben Ali asked the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to convey his greetings and appreciation to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and his best wishes of further prosperity and progress to the Jordanian people.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and Jordanian ambassador in Tunis, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan.

Baccouche, Escheikh Receive Sudan's Al-Turabi

LD0302054189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Yesterday evening Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche received Sudanese Deputy Prime Minister Hasan al-Turabi at the Government Palace in Casbah. Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh was also present.

The meeting dealt with the development of Tunisian-Sudanese relations and with ways to bolster bilateral cooperation. The two sides also discussed the Arab situation.

Kuwait

Delegation To Visit Iraq 6 Feb for Talks

LD0302092689 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0729 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, will pay an official 3-day visit to the Republic of Iraq next Monday.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials. The talks are meant to consolidate brotherly bilateral relations and cooperation between the two brotherly countries in various fields. They will also deal with development in the Arab region and efforts exerted to consolidate solidarity and joint [word indistinct] action in the service of the causes of the Arab nation.

The heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers will be accompanied by a high-ranking government delegation and a media delegation.

Paper Reports 'Israeli Plot' To Attack Iraq

LD0302094689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 3 (KUNA)—Local daily AL-QABAS said Friday that it has new information on an Israeli plot to launch an offensive against Iraq, on claims that it possesses chemical and biological weapons.

According to the paper, the information affirmed that the Israeli scheme has surpassed the thinking phase to setting up a complete plan, in which all experts of the Air Force, military intelligence, and special forces took part.

"AL-QABAS quoted informed sources as saying that another Israeli direct attack against Iraq is meant to tone down Baghdad's historic triumph in the Gulf War, and cover up the effects of a 14-month-old Palestinian uprising inside the occupied territories.

The paper indicated that Israel had gambled that the war would [word indistinct] the Iraqis and even lead to their defeat, but Iraq disappointed Tel Aviv," and Israel realized the type of loss it suffered."

The daily said that the sources expressed belief that the intended aggression against Iraq also shoots at covering up the extremely poor political and economic conditions the Israelis live in.

Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor back in 1981.

Saudi Arabia

AL-ITTIHAD: Britain Trying To Sell Warplanes

JN0202183489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the British Government is currently seeking to obtain a large military deal to supply Saudi Arabia with 90 Tornado fighters, which are estimated to value around 3.5 billion pounds sterling.

Well-informed sources in London have told AL-ITTIHAD that Britain has asked its military firms to prepare to produce this many warplanes, particularly after London has collected information that the United States will not sell Saudi Arabia the quantity of F-18's that it had ordered and that Washington will, at best, set conditions for selling these warplanes, something that Riyadh has declared it will reject.

United Arab Emirates

Defense Ministry Team Departs for Sweden 30 Jan

001173889 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 30 (GNA)—A UAE Defence Ministry delegation left today for a seven-day visit to Sweden.

The team is headed by Colonel Humayd 'Ali Sayf, director of the Civil Defence Department.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih on Economic Accord, Unity

JN0102194389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has asserted that YAR-Iraq relations are distinguished and historic ones, and cooperation between the two fraternal countries has existed for a long time. He pointed out that bilateral cooperation has improved, particularly during the the presidency of the Iraqi president, Brother Saddam Husayn.

This came in the interview conducted with the brother leader by the Iraqi weekly, ALIF BA', which was published in its issue that appeared in Baghdad today.

The brother leader explained that the talks held during the recent visit of Brother President Saddam Husayn to Sanaa have concentrated basically on our Arab nation's central cause—the Palestine question. He said: The talks dealt with the clear YAR-Iraqi relations, characterized by cooperation and identical viewpoints on international

policy. He pointed out that the talks also dealt with the causes and consequences of the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts to achieve security in the region.

The brother president was asked a question about the talk in both Arab and international cirlces which accompanied the Iraqi president's visit to our country. The talk focused on a quadripartite agreement among our country and Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan. The brother president explained that any economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between two countries or more constitutes a step on the path to Arab unity.

The brother president denied rumors about the existence of axes or pacts. He explained that there is a plan to establish an economic, technical, and cultural cooperation among the four states, which already exists on a bilateral level. He pointed out that there are committees specialized in this regard which are chaired by the prime ministers of these four states. He said that it also exists between our country and the GCC, Maghreb, and other Arab states.

He added that there will be nothing new if this economic, technical, and cultural cooperation is established among these countries, especially since it will not be limited to these four states alone, but will be open for the Arab states which like to join this cooperation within the framework of adherence to the by-laws, which will be announced at the proper time and will explain the nature of this cooperation.

Answering a question on whether this economic cooperation among the four states will be a political alliance, the brother leader and president asserted that it will be an economic cooperation based on the Arab League Charter and that there are no plans to establish a political alliance because the political alliance must include the Arab group within the framework of the Arab League since it is the base for uniting the Arab nation.

Answering a question on the position of Yemeni unity in light of such cooperation or such an Arab common market, and whether this will affect the achievement of Yemeni unity, the brother leader and president said: We consider Yemeni unity a base for achieving Arab unity and we want to take new steps with our brothers in the southern part. They also believe that the reestablishment of unity cannot be achieved at this time, but it needs a step-by-step course. However, we in the northern part have no problems regarding the establishment of unity between the two parts of the Yemen.

The president continued: The barriers between the two parts have been removed, particularly after the opening of the border areas and allowing citizens to move freely. Also, there are joint projects, and we feel that Yemeni unity will bring good, progress, and strength for the Yemeni people. We will continue to try to reestablish the homeland's unity. The brothers in the southern part of the homeland can decide the appropriate time.

The brother president added: It is not strange to reestablish unity of the homeland, because we are basically a single people, although there are differences in the political direction of the two political systems. There are agreements to govern this aspect—these are the Cairo agreement, the Tripoli statement, the accords of Kuwait, Aden, Ta'iz, and Sanaa. There is also a draft resolution for the united state constitution, which will provide the framework for everything. We are waiting for the time when our brothers in the southern part feel it is appropriate to refer it to the two legislative authorities in both parts as stipulated in the draft resolution. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on whether there is a possibility of a change in U.S. policy during the presidency of new President George Bush, the brother president said: Until now, there is nothing here to make us expect any change in U.S. policy. Its policy is known and planned and there is nothing new in it. Our relations with the United States are good, whether during the presidency of the former president or with the new president, George Bush. However, we hope that the new president will view positively the Arab relations in general, and the Palestine question in particular. The new U.S. Administration can accomplish this by changing the policy of complete bias toward Israel and standing on the side of right, justice, and peace.

Answering a question on the USSR's policy in light of the perestroika within the framework of the USSR's foreign policy, which is expected to witness major changes, the brother president said: Our relations with the USSR are good and developed. Perestroika concerns the USSR itself. Our country's policy is clear and declared to the world.

Answering a question on our country's purchase of arms from western countries after the main source of armament was the Soviet Union, the brother leader and president said: Since the beginning of the eighties, the YAR has declared that it will pursue a policy of diversification of the sources of arms and our main source is still the Soviet Union.

We can easily obtain anything we want whether from the East or West because our relations with all countries of the world are clear. Thanks be to God, we have defensive arms that correspond to our circumstances and economic conditions. All the arms we have are used to strengthen our defensive capability to protect our country's security and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Perez de Cuellar Meets With UN Delegate 2 Feb
JN0302080289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met with 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent UN representative, in New York yesterday. WAKH cited diplomatic sources in New York as saying that during the meeting a review was made of the continued efforts by the UN secretary general to activate direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran in order to implement Security Council Resolution No 598.

Ramadan Receives Egyptian Envoy, Sidqi Message
JN3001113589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this morning received a written message from Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi on bilateral cooperation between the two sisterly countries and ways of developing them to promote coordination, economic integration, and common Arab solidarity. Muhammad Sami Wahbah, under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, conveyed the message to Ramadan during a meeting here today.

The meeting was attended by Ra'uf Ghunaym, chief of the Egyptian prime minister's office, and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad.

Industry Minister Confers With Soviet Delegation
JN0202151389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, has discussed with Admiral Yuriy Kreshin, under secretary of the Soviet Foreign Economic Relations Ministry [title as received], industrial relations between the two countries, particularly concerning military industries. This took place during a meeting today between the Iraqi minister and the Soviet official and his accompanying delegation.

Hammadi Returns From Visit to Romania 1 Feb
JN0202124489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation returned to Baghdad last night following a 2-day visit to Romania. During the visit, Sa'dun Hammadi held talks with a number of Romanian officials dealing with relations between the two countries and ways to promote them.

WAKH Reports 'Gigantic' Irrigation Project
JN3001192289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (WAKH)—Iraq is now planning to carry out a gigantic irrigation project sufficient to irrigate more than 1 million dunums of lands at a cost exceeding 820 million Iraqi dinars, equivalent to more than $2.5 billion. The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH issued here today cited an Iraqi official as saying the project will turn lands suitable for rainfall farming in the governorate of Nineveh into irrigated farming. This will increase production by 5-10 fold.

Dr Shifa' al-Din Mahmud Sa'id, director of the Al-Jazirah irrigation project, said that after its completion, this project will be Iraq's breadbasket and a link in the chain of food security. He said the project consists of three secondary parts which depend on the waters of the Saddam lake in the governorate of Nineveh in northern Iraq.

In the full-page interview published in the newspaper today, he said the first part, the northern Al-Jazirah irrigation project, will cost approximately 120 million dinars and will irrigate an area estimated at 240,000 dunums through a large network of pipes and channels which will transfer waters for long distances.

The Al-Jazirah irrigation project director added: The second part, the eastern Al-Jazirah irrigation project, is expected to cost approximately 200 million dinars and will irrigate an agricultural area of 284,000 dunums through a network of channels and pipes to transfer these waters. The third and last part is the southern Al-Jazirah irrigation project. Its estimated cost totals approximately 500 million Iraqi dinars and will irrigate an agricultural area of about 550,000 dunums.

Dr Sa'id said specilized world companies won the tenders of a number of stages of the first and second parts. Meanwhile, tenders for other companies are being studied for final assignment, he added.

On the other hand, the Iraqi weekly AL-ITTIHAD said in today's issue that the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization completed studies for more than 73 electric power projects which depend on water resources in various areas of Iraq. The weekly said the study, which began in 1985, will enable Iraq to produce an electric power totaling 46,000 million kilowatt hour per year with a capacity of 15,000 kilowatts. This is seven times as much as the capacity of the current power stations.

Paper Cited on 'Grave Meanings' of Lebanon Pact
JN0202121489 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 2, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today confirmed that the agreement between the two Syrian and Iranian regimes concerning the situation in

Lebanon had disclosed a pact that Hafiz al-Asad is moving in the Iranian and Zionist orbit disregarding Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and without any consideration of interests of the national security.

In its commentary for today the paper said that Hafiz al-Asad had played a dangerous role by involving a foreign party and opening opportunity for intervention in affairs of an Arab country after it had formally sided with Iran in its aggression that was aimed at occupying Iraq and interfering in its affairs.

The paper also clairfied that this agreement had disclosed that following-up affairs of the gangs and administrating their affairs have become part of the main tasks of Hafiz al-Asad as a regime and a policy, and that Damascus' tyrant has accepted this cheap role in order to confirm that he is ready always to be with the enemies' side against the Arab issues of destiny.

The newspaper stressed in its commentary on saying that this agreement concluded between Damascus and Tehran comes again at the expense of security and independence of an Arab country because it made a foreign party, namely, Iran, a partner in complications of the Lebanese crisis and direct conspiracy on it. And owing to the Syrian connivance, Lebanon has become under the Iranian-Zionist influence through the direct interference in its affairs.

It added that of the grave meanings of this conspiratorial agreement is that it came at a sensitive and very delicate timing, for along with the beginning of meetings of the six-man Arab committee entrusted with helping Lebanon come out of its crisis, the Iranian and Syrian parties declared their ill-famed agreement so that to be as a message of clear meanings to all Arabs explaining that Hafiz al-Asad refuses any sincere Arab effort leading to deliver Lebanon from its situation and ordeal.

Arens: Tabah Withdrawal 1 Week After Agreement

TA0202152389 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Israel will withdraw from the Tabah area 1 week after access arrangements to the area are concluded, and after an agreement in principle is reached on the assets there. This was the response the foreign minister gave U.S. mediator Abraham Sofaer this evening. Sofaer returned to Cairo with Israel's response. Jerusalem is hoping that the talks with Egypt will resume next week even though the Israeli position as we have just reported it is not commensurate with the Egyptians' demand for an immediate Israeli withdrawal.

Shamir: Duel Not 'Worthwhile'

TA0202185289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was not prepared to react to the demand raised by Egyptian President Mubarak that the process of turning Tabah over to Egyptian sovereignty be accelerated. I do not think that it is worthwhile engaging in a duel of declarations. I would prefer to maintain our contacts through diplomatic channels, said Shamir in a news conference in Petah Tiqva.

Regarding the appointment of an Israeli UN ambassador, the prime minister said: We must find a candidate, and we will. It is my job.

Arens: Solution 'Close'

TA0202202889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by political correspondent Yig'al Goren on 2 February; place not given—videorecorded]

[Text] [Goren] Minister Arens, President Mubarak said today that without a clear and precise date for the transfer of the Tabah area to Egypt, he doubts very much that the talks will continue. In a very aggressive speech, he in fact gave Israel an ultimatum. What is your reaction to these developments?

[Arens] True, there was a time in Israeli-Egyptian relations when we heard Egypt making ultimatums and offensive pronouncements. It seems to me that both the Egyptians and ourselves prefer to forget those times. Such things cannot benefit the good relations between the two countries.

On the subject of Tabah, I believe we are very close to a solution. With a little goodwill on both sides—there is certainly goodwill on ours—it will be possible to attain an agreement satisfactory to both parties.

[Goren] President Mubarak says that the style Israel has adopted in the Tabah affair is one of foot dragging and attempts to outwit the other party, and that it will result in a crisis in relations between the two countries. Do you agree that Israel uses red-tape tactics? Do you have a direct answer to this charge?

[Arens] You must know that I do not agree with it. We sent some of our best people to the negotiations. We dedicate time, energy, and mental abilities to this issue, and if we find the same dedication on the other side, in addition to goodwill on both sides, the subject will be concluded to our mutual satisfaction.

[Goren] I assume everyone is asking the same question: After Israel accepted the principle of arbitration and announced that it would give the land back, what is to prevent Israel from going ahead and giving it back in order to avoid a situation in which Tabah becomes a stumbling block in relations between the two countries?

[Arens] Tabah need not become a stumbling block. On the contrary, I heard from the Egyptians that they wish Tabah to be the symbol of good relations between Israel and Egypt. There are a few points that have to be resolved. They are not overly complex, but they are not overly simple either. They can be resolved, and I hope they will.

[Goren] Commentators have said that the issue that troubles President Mubarak most is the fact that despite the Israeli commitment to return the area to Egypt, it has not demarcated the final border marker with the Egyptians. Is it possible for Israel to demarcate the border and conclude the compensation negotiations after it withdraws from the area?

[Arens] All this has to be done by consent. The Egyptians were the ones who demanded that the question the arbitrators be asked is not where the border lies, but where the border markers lie. As a result of this, no agreement has been reached so far on the last border alignment from marker No 91 to the beach. There are things that have to be agreed on in negotiations.

[Goren] There is no doubt that Israel has its arguments, while Egypt has counterarguments. The final question is this: If the relations between the two countries are considered, is not this continued two-sided stalling over Tabah blowing the issue out of proportion?

[Arens] I am very sorry, as I have already told you: There is no stalling on our part. On the contrary, we are willing to do everything that has to be done and give the problem all the time it requires so as to conclude it as soon as possible.

Sharon Comments

TA0302063889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon in Brussels by Arye Golan in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Text] [Golan] Have you been following the emerging crisis in relations with Egypt over the Tabah issue?

[Sharon] Yes, I have been following it from here as much as I can.

[Golan] What do you think about the emerging crisis? Minister Shahal said a few minutes ago that the argument is actually over a hotel, that this is a business dispute between Israeli stockholders and Egypt, that we should announce the date for the withdrawal from Tabah, and that we should then approach international assessors in order to settle the financial problem. Do you subscribe to that opinion?

[Sharon] In my opinion, the situation need not have come to this. It was to be expected. I cautioned against such a development on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, I was the only person in the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet who voted against such an arrangement.

[Golan] What did you propose: that we should not withdraw from Tabah or hand it back?

[Sharon] What I say, and not for the first time, is that any weakness on the part of Israel—and, in my opinion, Israel has been displaying weakness in each and every critical sphere of its existence—leads to further pressure. The argument with Egypt should not have been over a hotel. We have a previous, far more serious argument with Egypt over its failure to fulfill its commitments. This weakness led Israel to agree to go to arbitration in a way that sealed Tabah's fate from the word go.

The Egyptians have not yet fulfilled their commitments: The limitations on trade with Israel persist—and this point had been a condition for our agreement to go to arbitration; the limitations on Israeli tourism persist—and this point had also been a condition; the hostile anti-Israeli propaganda has worsened—and its termination had also been a condition for Israel's agreement; there are PLO men in Egypt—and this had also been a condition for Israel's concession. Israel is the one that has been making all the concessions.

[Golan] There have been calls in Israel for the demolition of the Aviya Sonesta Hotel should we have to draw from Tabah. In the present situation, would you favor this?

[Sharon] At the time of the withdrawal from the Sinai, with the approval of the Cabinet or rather a reduced forum, I brought about the destruction of Yamit.

[Golan] That is why I am asking you.

[Sharon] We handed back Ofira, Di-Zahav, Nevi'ot, and Refidim in their entirety. Not only did we give those places back, but we fixed every window and every door knob.

[Golan] What about Tabah and the Aviya Sonesta Hotel?

[Sharon] I argued at the time that if we were to give Yamit back, there would be a large Egyptian concentration there. The Egyptians were talking about settling 100,000 people near the Israeli border. My assessment was that this would become a focus of ceaseless friction.

[Golan] Minister Sharon, that is all past history. I am asking about a current issue, about the Aviya Sonesta Hotel.

[Sharon] One should always learn from past history. One should not dismiss it; one should learn from experience.

[Golan] Do you propose destroying the Aviya Sonesta Hotel?

[Sharon] As a rule, I am against destruction. I think that if the current state of relations—as reflected in the harsh and gross statements made in Egypt—persists, such a possibility should definitely be taken into consideration. Relations with Egypt may still be of such a nature that it would not be wise to have intensive Egyptian activities or big settlements near Israel's border. This issue may very well have to be reconsidered.

[Golan] Will you propose that to the Cabinet?

[Sharon] I do not know whether I will propose that to the Cabinet; I do not know what the situation will be. Unfortunately, when I see Israel's weakness, its willingness to make concessions on every issue—there are far more serious issues at present—and due to the fact that I will be out of Israel for a few more days, I am afraid I will not be in time to make this or another proposal to the Cabinet. For years, while everybody was just talking, I submitted many proposals saying that Israel must insist on its own rights and on the fulfillment of the commitments made to it. Unfortunately, Israel has long stopped doing that. We are currently going through one of the most serious periods of weakness in the Israeli leadership which, in my opinion, entails very serious dangers.

I am now in Western Europe and I see first-hand what has been happening over the past few months in terms of the attitude toward the PLO and 'Arafat. The most astonishing fact is that no real initiative whatsoever is being taken to rally Jews and Israel's numerous friends all over the world to fight the danger—which I consider one of the gravest ones—of the capitulation of Western Europe and the United States to the PLO.

Ben-Aharon: No Crisis Seen

TA0302083489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Friedman] When you hear the harsh, tough, and even humiliating remarks made by President Mubarak in Cairo, do you tell yourself not to get worked up? After all, the atmosphere in the closed meetings is much better and, as Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says, with a little bit of goodwill we can bridge the gaps, which are not that wide.

[Ben-Aharon] I would say something similar. I am afraid the Egyptians, including President Mubarak, know very well that there is no problem and that the Tabah issue can be settled through not very great efforts within days or weeks at most, perhaps with the help of Justice Sofaer of the United States. Although they know that, it is important for some Egyptian Government officials—due to reasons concerning Egypt's standing in and relations with the Arab world—to create some kind of minicrisis to show that Egypt is firm in its position, fights for the rights of the Arab nation, and so on and so forth.

We have always known of the existence of such a school of thought within the Egyptian Government, and we have had to cope with it, while seeking the help of those on the other side of the fence—and they exist—who definitely want to develop more or less normal relations with Israel and who believe that this was Al-Sadat's way and that this is the right way.

[Friedman] Does Mubarak belong to the school of thought that wants to sabotage relations?

[Ben-Aharon] Mubarak is an omnipotent president in Egypt, and I think he is aware of the existence of these two schools of thought. Occasionally, he may rely too much on the tough school of thought to the detriment of the one that we want to enhance and strengthen.

[Savir] Mr Ben-Aharon, are you not impressed that President Mubarak was sincere when he spoke yesterday about the possibility that there may be a rift or an actual blowup in relations between Israel and Egypt over the Tabah issue and that he was not responding to domestic pan-Arab needs?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not want to criticize President Mubarak's remarks. I would like to believe that he is sincere in everything he says. I only want to say that all parts of the Israeli Government want to convey the following message to Egypt: There is no crisis; let us solve the problem through direct negotiations. After all, we have solved all problems so far, and those were far more serious and painful problems for both countries. This is a problem that can definitely be solved.

[Friedman] The way it looks to us outside observers, the bone of contention is the amount of compensation to be paid for the Israeli property in the area. Is Israel not jeopardizing its entire relationship with Egypt by defending the interests of a private Israeli citizen, the justness of the cause notwithstanding?

[Ben-Aharon] No. It seems to me the facts are different. The bone of contention is not the amount of compensation, and even if it had been, this could have been easily settled. The conventional way to solve such issues in international relations is through a third party, which assesses the value of the property, guarantees the payment of compensation by one side to the other, and sees to the implementation of all the other clauses of the agreement.

[Friedman] If that is the case, what is the main bone of contention at the moment?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, that is exactly the point. I do not think there is a main bone of contention. I think the Egyptians have to some extent backed themselves into a corner, as the Americans say. They set a date for raising their flag because, according to their version, that is the date when the arbitration ruling—including the removal of any Israeli presence from the Tabah area to border marker No. 91—must be carried out.

[Savir, interrupting] Whereas Israel does not want to set a date for the withdrawal.

[Ben-Aharon] They made a unilateral decision; that is the problem. Any such move should be the outcome of mutual consent. That is exactly what we have been telling them—that we will do exactly what is stipulated in the arbitration ruling when we reach agreement on all the other clauses.

[Friedman] To sum up, Mr Ben-Aharon, how do you picture the last few days of this issue?

[Ben-Aharon] I would like to believe Egypt does not want to feed this storm artificially. Egypt knows that if it does have an asset in the world, in Europe and the United States, it is the fact that it was the first country to make a breakthrough on the road to peace. Therefore, for needs that are none of our business, it does what it does in the media. We should not get worked up, and we must soberly tell them: Please, let us go back to the negotiating table and solve the problem—and that is exactly what will happen.

Prime Minister Discusses Mideast Peace Process

PM0202110889 Paris LE MONDE in French
1 Feb 89 pp 1,6

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Jacques Amalric and Alain Frachon—date, place not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] Why did you finally decide to form a government with the Labor Party rather than with the religious parties?

[Shamir] Immediately after the elections, I stated publicly that I preferred a broad coalition, a government of national unity to any other solution. It was clear, therefore, that the Labor Party should participate in the government.

And, from the start of the negotiations with the religious parties, I was convinced that a narrowly based government would not be capable of solving the problems facing Israel. In view of the serious attacks that Israel is now suffering, it was absolutely vital for a government of national unity to lead the country.

It was vital to have a strong and stable government that could make bold decisions. And the formation of such a government has been enthusiastically welcomed by public opinion.

[Interviewer] During your negotiations with the religious parties, you seemed to be extremely irritated by their behavior.

[Shamir] When you are trying to form a government with very small parties and when each of those parties knows that nothing can be done without it, they make very extreme demands. And it is impossible to accept such demands without damaging the state's interests.

[Interviewer] What kind of demands were they making?

[Shamir] They were completely unrealistic. A party that has only three deputies was demanding two government posts, and not minor ones. That was very reminiscent of your Fourth Republic. We would have been heading for disaster if we had given satisfaction to such claims.

[Interviewer] The fact remains that during the last elections the religious parties were the only ones to make gains. Does that not worry you?

[Shamir] We do not really yet know the reasons for that phenomenon. But it is true that we were surprised. However, I do not think that this increase in the religious parties' influence is because of an increase in religious feeling among the population.

[Interviewer] Is it caused by a feeling of disappointment with the two big parties?

[Shamir] No, I think it is due more to the special tactics that the religious parties used for the first time. Such things had never been done. You know, the rabbis have some influence in the communities. But they usually kept out of election campaigns. Of course, their positions were known, but they did not have any active involvement in political struggles. This time, they overstepped those limits.

[Interviewer] What is your personal position on religion?

[Shamir] I respect religion; it cannot be ignored in a state like ours, because it is an integral part of Jewish existence. The structure of our state must reflect that importance, because a Jew cannot belong to another religion. A Frenchman can be a Catholic, a Protestant, or a Muslim. That is not true of a Jew. We, therefore, cannot ignore the Jewish character of the Israeli state, especially if we take account of the need for special ties with Jewish people in the world, but I am opposed to religion having a political influence.

[Interviewer] You are not regarded as a very pious man.

[Shamir] I am not a practicing Jew, but I am not opposed to religion. I respect it.

[Interviewer] All the problems that you encountered immediately after the elections are due to your electoral system, which is based on full proportional representation. What do you intend to do about that?

[Shamir] We must change our electoral system and thus strengthen the executive. That is why we are going to set up a commission with the Labor Party that will work on electoral reform. We are thinking in particular of choosing a prime minister in a general election and electing some of the deputies on the basis of constituencies rather than on the basis of a single national list. The system would be mixed; it would combine the two methods, as happens in West Germany. There is no disagreement with the Labor Party on this subject, although not everybody within each party agrees. I hope that the next elections will be held according to new principles. This is one of my government's important objectives.

[Interviewer] In Europe, people fear that a government of national unity will produce paralysis, especially as regards the Israeli-Arab conflict, as was the case over the past 2 years.

[Shamir] It is true that serious disagreements between the Labor Party and Likud prevent us from making decisions. But it is also true that, without the two parties' agreement, we cannot reach a clear decision on the peace question. That is why we must find a solution that is acceptable to the majority of the two parties. I do not think that a solution that would be unanimously accepted by the two parties is conceivable, but we must seek a solution that is accepted by the majority in the two

parties, as was the case with the Camp David agreements. Remember, when Mr Begin put those agreements to the Knesset, there were deputies in both parties who opposed them. But the majority were in favor.

[Interviewer] Mr Arens, who is now foreign minister, was opposed to them, as you were.

[Shamir] Mr Arens was opposed to them, and so was I because, although I was in favor of the peace treaty with Egypt, I was hostile to total withdrawal from the Sinai and to withdrawal from Yamit, which set a precedent and that, in practice, led to the disturbances that you remember. (Footnote) (Yamit was an Israeli settlement of several thousand people installed in northern Sinai. The army had to intervene to force the inhabitants to leave when Israel withdrew from Sinai).

[Interviewer] Do you think that the intifadah is merely a hitch or a major event that will speed up the course of history?

[Shamir] We will have to wait and see. But the intifadah is primarily a new method of Arab struggle against Israel; it is not a revolution. After trying all methods against Israel—war, terrorism, economic boycott—the Arabs realized that they were achieving nothing. The intifadah was the expression of that disappointment. I am not saying that the decision was taken from outside, but the Arabs quickly encouraged it and discovered Israel's weaknesses: Its inability to use all available means to crush that movement. For instance, we cannot open fire on crowds of hundreds or thousands of people.

[Interviewer] Nonetheless, there is a marked imbalance in the number of casualties: Some 340 Palestinians have been killed, but there have been around 10 deaths on the other side!

[Shamir] We are doing all we can to avoid killing people.

[Interviewer] But you are using young 18-year-olds who are frightened, who are not trained for this kind of exercise, and who fire too readily.

[Shamir] No, no, no, not at all; you know, if that was true, far more people would have been killed. And the riots might possibly have been stopped. But there have been very strict orders not to shoot, unless the soldiers are in danger. And we use plastic bullets that do not kill in the majority of cases. There are other methods, but we do not want to cause a high loss of life to these people with whom we hope to live in harmony one day.

We also think that this intifadah does not serve the Palestinian population's interests. If the Palestinians want to improve their situation, even in political terms, this can be achieved by negotiation. But if they want to have a Palestinian state immediately, they will fail. They will not obtain that by negotiations or by force. That is unthinkable. It will never happen.

But if they want to reach a political solution that is more or less in line with the Camp David agreement, the Palestinian population's interests will be served.

I am thinking of a two-phase solution for the Palestinians living here in our country. In the first phase there would be autonomy—a very broad, very liberal autonomy for a limited time. And, after that there would be negotiations—without preconditions—on the territories' permanent status. The result of those negotiations must be acceptable to all sides.

[Interviewer] The problem is that you have already decided the result of those negotiations on the final status in advance by saying that Israel will never withdraw.

[Shamir] There will certainly not be any withdrawal now. But, if we enter into negotiations, we will go without preconditions. In other words—and that was very clear during the Camp David negotiations—the aim of the negotiations will be to find a solution that is acceptable to all sides.

The Camp David agreements talk of a partial withdrawal of our forces, of regrouping them in specific zones. Withdrawal has therefore been discussed. That regrouping of Israeli troops in specific zones will guarantee Israel's security, but possibly also the security of the autonomy system itself. In such a period of freedom, a situation similar to the Lebanese situation could develop.

[Interviewer] You do not want Arab sovereignty over the territories.

[Shamir] We want our sovereignty, the Arabs want Arab sovereignty, so if we start to negotiate on this sovereignty problem, we will achieve nothing. At Camp David, we agreed to postpone this debate on sovereignty for several years and to create autonomy initially. During those few years, there will be cooperation, and coexistence between the Israelis and Palestinians to ensure that, at the end of this period of autonomy, a better atmosphere of mutual confidence is created that will facilitate negotiations on permanent status. And when we talk of "permanent status" for the territories, it means—as the Camp David agreements stipulate—that the Palestinians' legitimate rights will be taken into consideration.

[Interviewer] In that scenario, at what point would there be elections in the territories?

[Shamir] If we reach agreement on autonomy, on the principle of these negotiations in two phases, there will immediately be democratic elections to provide the Palestinians with legitimate representation. That is clear to everybody.

[Interviewer] Will you run the risk that the Palestinians' elected representatives will be close to the PLO?

[Shamir] There is a risk. But, to counterbalance that risk there will always be Israeli troops in the specific regrouping zones in the territories. There will therefore never be revolutionary change in the territories until we reach a final agreement. The main thing is that the solution should be the product of an agreement, the result of negotiations. It must not be a solution imposed in advance.

[Interviewer] At all events, you first need an agreement with Jordan and Egypt, but those two countries refuse the solution that you are proposing....

[Shamir] For the time being they are rejecting it, but just one of those two countries would suffice. And even if we can reach an agreement with the Palestinians without having to deal with the PLO, we are prepared to carry out those negotiations in two phases with the Palestinians alone.

[Interviewer] Do you think that will happen?

[Shamir] I think that it would be easier with Jordan, easier to achieve Palestinian representation....

[Interviewer] But no Arab country is prepared to negotiate with you on that basis and, moreover, without an international conference being held.

[Shamir] That is a disagreement. We want direct negotiations. What the Arabs, all the Arabs, are proposing is an international conference, international negotiations, and we will never accept that. Never.

[Interviewer] Will you not even accept the Washington solution under the terms of which the conference would merely be an international "umbrella" for direct negotiations?

[Shamir] No, no, there is no American solution. The Americans have never been enthusiastic about an international conference, they prefer direct Israeli-Arab negotiations, but after Mr Peres gave his agreement to such a conference, they felt they could accept it on certain conditions.

I think that even the USSR is not very interested in an international conference. What it wants is to have some participation in the negotiations. As yet, the Soviet position is not clear, although there has been some change in their anti-Israeli attitude.

[Interviewer] When will diplomatic relations be resumed?

[Shamir] I do not know, it depends on them. For the time being, things are better, especially compared with the previous situation, but they are not yet perfect.

[Interviewer] To return to the question of the territories, do you feel pushed for time?

[Shamir] Certainly. We must find a solution. We do not want to prolong the situation indefinitely. But the pressure of time must not alter the essential issues.

[Interviewer] Are you afraid of diplomatic isolation, now that the United States is talking with the PLO and President Mitterrand might meet with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Shamir] Yes, we are not concealing the fact that this is serious. It is pushing us into despair and I do not think that it is a good thing for the international community to push Israel into despair. But, there can be no question of our accepting an imposed solution. If we do not want an international conference, we will not attend an international conference.

[Interviewer] However, you must regain the diplomatic initiative in some way....

[Shamir] Our main objective is to negotiate. We are prpeared to seek various ways of achieving that. I am convinced that we will succeed if we start with negotiations. I personally have a few ideas about the result of such negotiations, but I do not think that it is worth discussing them now.

[Interviewer] Will you discuss this with the Americans and President Mitterrand?

[Shamir] Possibly, possibly.

[Interviewer] Do you know President Bush?

[Shamir] Yes, yes.

[Interviewer] Can there be any change in U.S. policy?

[Shamir] Anything is possible. But we think that the Reagan and Shultz policy should be continued.

[Interviewer] But surely it was Mr Shultz who established dialogue with the PLO?

[Shamir] Yes, but he had been excellent until then....

[Interviewer] If you announced elections in the territories tomorrow, you would surprise everybody.

[Shamir] But all the Arabs without exception have already said that they are opposed to such elections after our defense minister proposed them. The rejection was immediate, because the PLO is against them.

[Interviewer] Why do you refuse to take account of the PLO's move toward recognizing Israel?

[Shamir] I think that a government and a state can change policy. But a political and ideological movement, whose whole raison d'etre is Israel's destruction, cannot change overnight. Its whole philosophy and ideology

would have changed! That is impossible. And we know that the PLO's changes are merely tactical; the organization remains loyal to its ideology. Its officials say so.

[Interviewer] But it was General Dan Shomron, your chief of staff, who pointed out that the PLO's attacks and attempts at infiltration on the Lebanese border had stopped for the past 2 months, since the Algiers PNC meeting.

[Shamir] That, too, is a tactical move. What the PLO wants now is not to convince Israel that it must make concessions. It thinks that it must win over the United States, because it thinks that Israel is a U.S. puppet. To win over the United States, the Palestinians must carry out various exercises, 'Arafat must say just once that he recognizes Israel, and some terrorist acts must be suspended for a time. But not permanently—they have said that. Listen to the statements made by 'Arafat's aides: They say that they have not changed their ideology, that their objective is still the same. Listen to the statements by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], PLO number two; by Qaddumi, the PLO foreign minister; and by many others—Habash and Hawatimah, who are PLO members. They say that nothing has changed. But they are prepared to make some temporary changes to secure dialogue with the United States.

I was Knesset speaker when Al-Sadat visited Jerusalem. He said: I want to make peace, I understand that you have security problems. And he accepted the complete demilitarization of the Sinai; that was something major. But we are not hearing any such thing now.

[Interviewer] You will be in Paris at the end of February. What will you say to Mr Mitterrand, who has expressed the intention of having talks with Mr 'Arafat?

[Shamir] I will try to convince him that it will not help peace. And I think that President Mitterrand wants peace to be established and wants to play a role in that process.

[Interviewer] If you reach the end of your present mandate, you will have been prime minister almost as long as Ben Gurion. For what do you want to be remembered?

[Shamir] I am thinking of peace, at least of enabling it to happen, of a reform of our electoral system, and of preventing a Fourth Republic in our country.

Shamir To Present Ideas

TA0202181389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he has several ideas for a solution of the Middle East conflict that he will present to the new U.S. Administration on his visit to Washington. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Yitzhaq Shamir made these remarks to a group of U.S. security experts.

He added that from his point of view the primary goal is to reach negotiations without stating anything just now about their outcome. To reach the stage of negotiations, Israel needs the assistance of the United States, he stressed. Yitzhaq Shamir believes that despite the shift in the Soviet Union's attitude toward Israel, it will not be instrumental in attaining that goal because of its traditional support of the PLO.

Palestinian Communist Paper Against Rabin Plan

TA0102172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] A new issue of the Palestinian Communist Party underground organ AL-WATAN appeared this week in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the newspaper, which has been published sporadically over the past 10 years, urges the residents to reject Minister Rabin's plan and reiterates the Palestinian Communist Party's stand favoring the convocation of an authoritative international conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict.

Shamir, Rabin Plans Viewed as 'Futile Efforts'

TA0202192489 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Feb 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Shamir, Rabin—Old Ideas for Sale"]

[Text] Following the declaration by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of a plan bearing his name and that Rabin himself considered to be mere "personal ideas," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced two days ago a "new" initiative in an interview with the Paris-based LE MONDE newspaper. The jist of the interview is that he favors a two-phased solution. In the first phase, a "very developed" autonomy will be implemented, after which negotiations will be held without preconditions on the final status of the occupied territories.

Shamir did not refrain from repeating his rejection of a dialogue with the PLO and the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. As is his custom though, he expressed his readiness to conduct a dialogue with "Palestinians." This is a euphemism in the Israeli lexicon referring to persons who are willing to stand in a line rejected by the PLO as well as by the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories.

It is therefore very obvious to us that there is a continuous Israeli persistence in putting forward old ideas and plans under the pretext that they are peace initiatives seeking to resolve the problem. In fact, they have no relation whatsoever to the rationale of peace.

If these futile efforts by Israel's leaders to sell their old merchandise reveals the bankruptcy of these leaders in dealing with the new developments in the region, they also indicate that a solution to the Palestinian problem can be seen on the horizon. Israeli initiatives, as well as

statements that occasionally bear a new tune, are merely attempts to head off such a solution. The outlines of this solution are becoming clear through the continuing international support for the Palestinian cause and the widespread concern for the Middle East problem in the international arena. This confirms that the PLO is now standing on the threshhold of a new phase that will be decisive with regard to the future of the Palestinian cause and that of the entire region.

'Public Relations Ploys'

TA0202172389 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 2 Feb 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Israeli Plans—for Public Relations Only"]

[Text] Israeli newspapers have grown silent about Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan and have begun discussing the plan by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir! In the midst of this silence, total conformity between the two plans and obvious coordination between the Likud and Alignment have become evident, despite what is said regarding disagreement between them over every matter.

No sooner had Yitzhaq Rabin backed down from his recent remarks, which he has often repeated, stipulating that the "situation must calm down" before elections are held, than Yitzhaq Shamir rushed off to announce his own two-phase "plan" to the LE MONDE newspaper the day before yesterday. Israeli newspapers rushed behind Shamir to carry on their front pages the news of the Shamirian plan, which does not differ from Rabin's plan except in the names of the alleged phases. If Rabin had envisaged four phases, his prime minister, Shamir, condensed them to only two. Both plans, whether that of the four or two phases, merge at one decisive point. Namely, unequivocal rejection of the existence of a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. According to Shamir himself, we will not have a state "either through negotiations or by force. This is unimaginable and will never take place."

What significance will any Israeli plan that claims to move toward a political solution of the Palestinian problem have as long as its bottom line is rejection of the principle of two states on the one hand, and rejection of the international conference as the legitimate framework for achieving a comprehensive and durable peace in the region on the other. One should also add to this the plan's central, firm, and continued rejection of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people everywhere.

All the current Israeli "plans," whether by Shamir, Rabin, or any other Israeli minister who should desire to take part in the game of "popping trial balloons," are no more than public relations ploys within the framework of repeated efforts to extricate the Israeli Government from stifling isolation. All this does not contribute to making the desired peace. In a sense, this will increase this government's isolation. Will Shamir become convinced of this, or will he continue making futile statements?

Sharon Seeks Participation in 1992 EC Move

TA0102133589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 89 p 3

[Report by Eytan Avri'el]

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon recently met with Edith Cresson, French minister for European affairs, and asked that she help get Israel included in the European move planned for 1992. Sharon asked for assistance in the transfer of commercial information and for permission to use European information banks for industrial cooperation projects.

Sharon raised the issue of the Arab boycott of companies trading with Israel, arguing that they prohibit full exploitation of the potential of the trade agreements. He added that as a result of the boycott companies that used to sell their goods to Israel without limitations are now refraining from signing new purchase deals, selling know-how, or investing in Israel.

TASS Egypt Correspondent Arrives on Visit

TA0302111089 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Ratmir Rostov [name as published], the director of the TASS news agency in Egypt, arrived here last Monday as the guest of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel.

Mr Rostov has already met with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Knesset Member Avraham Ravitz, Tehiya Spokesman Yisra'el Meydad who lives in Shilo, and others. Today he will meet with Minister Mordekhay Gur. Rostov speaks Arabic and served as the TASS representative in Baghdad and Damascus before being posted to Cairo. Egypt also serves as the base from which Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are covered.

Before relations were severed, TASS kept a permanent correspondent in Israel, and its last representative to Tel Aviv was later appointed director general of TASS, which has correspondents in 120 countries worldwide.

This is the first visit to Israel by a TASS representative since the Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations in 1967. It was preceded by a visit by Dmitriy Velikiy, the correspondent in Egypt for the Soviet Government organ IZVESTIYA. Velikiy arrived during the election campaign and covered the days preceding the elections, the elections' results, and the beginning of the coalition negotiations.

In the wake of the thaw in relations between the two countries, Velikiy began covering Israel from Cairo, and recently IZVESTIYA ran three comprehensive articles about us.

It appears that TASS, the official news agency, and TRUD, the trade union organ, have decided to follow the example set by IZVESTIYA and entrust their Egypt-based correspondents with coverage of Israel. In the meantime, TRUD is publishing reports about Israel without having its correspondent visit the country.

Both Soviet journalists reported to the Government Press Office on arrival in Israel and applied for a government press card. On the day of his arrival, Mr Rostov, accompanied by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alon Li'el, attended a basketball game held in Jerusalem between the local Hapo'el team and Hapo'el Tel Aviv.

GDR's Loeffler Invites Hammer for Visit

TA3101124789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Kurt Loeffler, East German state secretary for church affairs, held a lengthy meeting today with Minister of Religious Affairs Zvulun Hammer. During their meeting, the guest invited Minister Hammer to visit his country. The two discussed matters of bilateral interest, including Jewish property in East Germany, and agreed on the exchange of youth delegations. The East German minister said that no call on Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek had been planned and that therefore he was sorry that the issue had acquired such regrettable dimensions. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports:

[Begin recording] In his meeting with Minister Hammer, the guest raised his country's strong wish to get closer to Israel and to establish normal contacts between the two countries. At the moment, the problem is the political sensitivity, due to East Germany's relations with the Arab world. This sensitivity is also the reason for Dr Loeffler's refusal to visit East Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

It is a problem involving the foreign relations of the German Democratic Republic. Its position on national rights was not raised in today's meeting with Hammer. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 31 January adds that "at their request, two East German diplomats in Loeffler's entourage met today with Yesha'yahu 'Anug, the Foreign Ministry assistant director general. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr 'Anug made it clear to his interlocutors that his agreement to give them an audience does not signify the end of the dispute between the two countries over East Germany's responsibility for the Holocaust."]

SLA Deports 4 South Lebanese to Syrian Area

TA0202155389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The South Lebanese Army headquarters this morning expelled four more residents of the security zone village of Al-Sunni al-Shab'a, situated in the foothills of Mount Hermon, to an area controlled by Syria. The deportees include a school principal who was expelled from the security zone three times last year, but was subsequently permitted to return.

IDF, UNIFIL Clash

TA0202193689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Report by correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] In the past 2 weeks, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] expelled 72 Lebanese from the security zone; most of the deportees are from the Sunni village of Shab'a in the foothills of Mount Hermon. SLA headquarters sources said with a smile: The policy of mass deportations is proving to be most efficient, and we will soon break the obstinacy of the Shab'a residents; there will simply be nobody left there. The deportees include a school principal who went north in the footsteps of six of his teachers who were deported last week.

The Norwegian UNIFIL contingent in charge of the Shab'a area has tried to express its disapproval of the deportations through acts of harassment directed at the IDF and the SLA. Yesterday, the Norwegians outdid themselves when they halted the car of the commander of the IDF Liaison Unit With Lebanon, Brigadier General Ze'ev Zakharin. The Norwegian soldiers pointed guns at the officer and positioned an APC in front of his vehicle. When IDF tanks suddenly appeared, the Norwegian company commander realized he was overreacting and ordered his men to clear the road. In retaliation, the IDF blocked all south Lebanese roads to UNIFIL vehicles. [passage omitted]

IDF Protests Remarks

TA0302130689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] A serious crisis has erupted between the IDF and UNIFIL's Norwegian battalion after the battalion commander likened IDF soldiers to Nazis. The remarks were made yesterday in the presence of senior IDF officers and UN officers of various nationalities. The speaker was Colonel Carlsen. The incident took place during a discussion between IDF and UNIFIL officers over the expulsions carried out by the South Lebanese Army from the Sunni village of Shab'a. UN officers told our correspondent Hayim Hecht they believed the Norwegian officer lost his military and diplomatic prudence. The IDF has lodged a harsh protest with UNIFIL Headquarters over the Norwegian officer's remarks.

Detention Extended for Man Accused of Spying

TA0202120289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Petah Tiqva Magistrate's Court extended by 10 days the detention of the man suspected of spying for the PLO through contacts with representatives of the organization in Greece. The magistrate banned publication of his name and anything else that could identify him. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the suspect admitted to the charges. It was reported that he gave himself up to the Israeli Embassy in Athens after he learned that the PLO did not keep its promises to pay him for the reports he gave it. He said he did not hand over any information that might damage Israel's security.

The suspect immigrated to Israel from the USSR in the 1970's. He is 35 years old, lives in the north, is a father of two, and works in a government institution. He explained his actions by saying that he was disappointed with his life in Israel, suffered economic hardships, and that people made his life miserable. He said he did not realize the seriousness of his actions.

Harish Elected Labor Party Secretary General

TA0202150089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] By unanimous vote, the Labor Party Central Committee chose Knesset Member [MK] Mikha Harish as the next Labor Party secretary general. In his speech, MK Harish said that the arduous task of rebuilding trust within segments of the Israeli public that have forsaken the Labor Party since the seventies must now be undertaken. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Tehiya's Kohen Accorded Seat on Committee

TA0102140189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 89 p 3

[Report by Yoram Bar]

[Text] According to a written pledge, Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen (Tehiya) will be accorded a seat on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee at the expense of the Likud. This was reported to MK Kohen by Likud Faction Chairperson MK Sara Doron.

This ends the bitter feud between Tehiya and the Likud, which tried to ignore its written commitment. Only after vociferous protests by Kohen and after the issue was reported in the media did the Likud decide to abide by its pledge.

U.S. Reportedly To 'Test' 'Arafat on Visa

JN0202143489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Our political affairs correspondent (Yehudit Bodek) reports on the conditions under which the U.S. Administration will grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States.

[Begin recording] The United States plans to test 'Arafat before granting him an entry visa. It has been learned that the United States will ask 'Arafat to undertake in writing to abide by his speech at the UN General Assembly's Geneva session, which was moved to Geneva following the refusal of an entry visia to 'Arafat by former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to deliver his speech before the General Assembly in New York.

Now after the United States has agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO on the strength of 'Arafat's Geneva speech and his statements at the press conference, the United States will ask 'Arafat to make a written commitment to halt terrorism, unconditionally accept UN Security Council Resolution 242, and declare that recognition of the right to self-determination within the 1967 borders means ending the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States will further ask 'Arafat to make an international declaration calling on all factions of the PLO in Europe and southern Lebanon to honor the promises he made in Geneva.

This American step seeks to put the PLO chief to the test of dictating his instructions to all of the component factions of the PLO. If 'Arafat delivers these conditions, he will likely be granted an enty visa to the United States. As for Israel and Jewish organizations in the United States, they will work to block it. [end recording]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Youth Killed Near Janin

TA0202151989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] A short while ago, a 16-year-old Arab youth was killed by IDF gunfire near Fahmah and Kafr Ra'i in the Janin area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youth was killed in a violent clash between IDF soldiers and a group of masked youths.

Bank Closing After Attack

TA0202155689 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Feb 89 p 4

[Text] Nabulus—It was learned from informed sources yesterday that the management of Bank Leumi has officially decided to close the bank's branch in Nabulus as of the middle of February after liquidating all its operations. The decision came after unidentified persons threw 5 firebombs inside the bank Monday morning, setting fire to most of the bank's contents. Five of the

bank's employees suffered burns, including the manager and deputy manager. The deputy manager was taken to Hadassah Hospital in serious condition.

Moreover, the bank's management decided to dismiss all the Arab employees, numbering some 25 persons, after the employees informed management of their refusal to work.

Bedouins Sentenced

TA0202182789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Tel Aviv District Court sentenced Ya'aqov Batash, a 22-year-old resident of Or Yehuda, to a year of imprisonment and an additional 1-year suspended sentence today. Batash was convicted of preparing a firebomb with which he intended to set fire to the sleeping quarters used by Arabs in town.

The Beersheba District Court sentenced three Bedouin youths to 11 and ½ months imprisonment, with an additional 18-month suspended sentence after they were convicted of throwing rocks at passing cars.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 2 February also reports that "three residents of Bayt Sahur in the Bethlehem District received a 3-month sentence, including 7 days in jail. The houses of the three had borne anti-Israeli slogans that the men had refused to erase." In addition to the sentence, the three had the choice of either a fine of 400 shekels, or 1 month in prison.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 2 February reports that "The Gaza military court sentenced a 15-year-old to a year in jail and another year suspended for throwing stones at an army patrol. The youth confessed to the crime."]

Arab Lawyers Extend Strike

TA0202183589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Arab attorneys in Judaea and Samaria have announced that they are extending their protest strike by another month. During the strike they will not appear in military courts. The attorneys justified their decision with the continued humiliating attitude taken toward them and their clients and with the violation of the legal rights of Arab detainees.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, said that he regrets the decision. He stressed that the military courts will continue to strictly observe the rights of the defendants.

Firebomb Thrown in Jerusalem

TA0302074889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] There have been two cases of harassment of public transportation in Jerusalem. A firebomb was thrown this morning near the Cinematheque in the western part of the city. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the firebomb ignited, but there were no casualties and no damage was caused.

A burning rag tied to a stone was thrown at an Israeli bus driving laborers to work in the village of Abu Dis, on the road to Ma'ale Adummim. The vehicle was slightly damaged, but nobody was hurt.

Citrus Exporters Stand To Lose Money in EC Sale

TA0102092689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] The first independent Gazan citrus export to the EC could end with an estimated loss of $300,000.

Palestinian growers told THE JERUSALEM POST that they had not received any money for the 1,200 tons of grapefruit shipped to Rotterdam via Ashdod a week before Christmas. The Dutch businessman who handled the deal has been quoted by REUTER as saying that it is too early to tell whether the Gazans will lose money on the shipment.

The direct export of citrus from Gaza to Holland became possible four months ago with the signing of an agreement between the government of Israel and the EC.

The agreement, which was hailed as a political breakthrough for Palestinian agriculture, brought to an end a year of negotiations between a governmental committee and Palestinian growers in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We signed an agreement with a Dutch importer for 16,000 tons of grapefruit and oranges," said Mansur al-Shawwa, chairman of the Gaza Citrus Growers' Association.

The first 1,100 tons of grapefruit arrived in Rotterdam on December 19, said Hashim al-Shawwa, chairman of Gaza Citrus Export Council. "It was the best possible timing. How come he sold only 1,000 out of 57,000 boxes on Christmas Eve?"

The unsold fruit is being stored in the port for half a dollar per box a month.

The Gazans blame Mario Overkleeft, the Dutch executive who handled the deal. "He turned out to have no credibility," said Mansur al-Shawwa. "We made a mistake by not agreeing over minimum prices." Hashim al-Shawwa ascribed the failure to "carelessness and other unclear reasons." [passage omitted]

Foreign Currency Reserves Rise by $1.25 Billion

TA0102095789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Israel's foreign currency reserves rose by an almost unprecedented sum of $1.25 billion during the previous month. This was mainly because of foreign currency exchanges made by the public after the devaluation. Israel's foreign currency reserves now stand at $4.63 billion. In January, the government absorbed 935 million shekels from the Israeli public in various taxes. This data was reported by our economic correspondent Yaron Kulas.

Al-Husayni Release, Proposed Elections Viewed

TA3101164189 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jan 89 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Right Conclusion"]

[Text] Despite the fact that this was not the first time that the head of the Arab Studies Society was detained and then released after serving the last minute of his prison term in Israeli prisons, it was the first time that Al-Husayni's release enjoyed such an unusual publicity uproar in the Israeli news media. This, after the Israeli authorities for over a month had leaked statements and fabricated remarks falsely attributed to Al-Husayni.

One who follows the publicity uproar unleashed by Israel on Faysal al-Husayni's release will definitely draw the right and definite conclusion. Namely, that Israel, which has become annoyed at the continuing momentum of and the high prestige enjoyed by the Palestinian cause on the international scene, is overtly trying to divert attention from Palestinian political gains in the international arena. It is doing so by talking about discussions and consultations that it is holding with national Palestinian figures in the occupied territories with the aim of finding a solution to the conflict. This conclusion should serve as an incentive to all the countries concerned over the region's conflict to expedite their serious efforts to put an end to Israel's attempt to shuffle the cards. These countries should hasten the convocation of the international conference in order to confront the Israeli rejection.

In his talk with the news media yesterday, Al-Husayni dismissed all the nonsense that the Israeli authorities and their news media tried to attribute to him. He affirmed to the entire world that the Palestinian people are immune from the attempt to drag them into the labyrinth of the elections farce, pointing out that the PLO alone is the decisionmaker on the matter.

With his deep understanding of the present circumstances, Al-Husayni also asserted that any negotiations Israel wants to conduct should be with the PLO, and that no Palestinian under occupation has the right to conduct negotiations in place of the PLO.

Thus Al-Husayni, by insisting on the convocation of the international conference at the earliest possible time, by refusing to enter into the labyrinth of elections under the shadow of the occupation, and by insisting on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, is affirming the same Palestinian principles that have always been stressed by the PLO in its effort to realize the national goals. These goals were clearly expressed by the PNC at its 19th session last November in Algiers.

Radio Commentary Refutes Claims of 'Deadlock'

JN0202164389 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 2 Feb 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Some observers, including Israelis, have been saying in the past few weeks that Israel is facing a deadlock because of the vanishing of the Jordanian option and the autonomy formula envisaged in the Camp David accords. In light of this, according to these observers, Israel has no choice but to talk to and negotiate with the PLO. In other words, these observers have been saying that Israel has no choice but to deal with Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters.

Is this premise true? And is there factual evidence corroborating it? To reach an objective and carefully considered reply to the question, we must take into account two facts. The first is that any Israeli Government in the foreseeable future is bound to be led by one of the two major blocs—namely, the Alignment or Likud—or by a coalition comprising the two blocs in a national unity government, as is the case now. The second fact is that both the Alignment and Likud are adhering to their principled stand ruling out any talks with the PLO in any peace parley with Israel, not only because of its charter or its bloody terrorist record, but also because of its leaders' lack of credibility.

In light of these two facts, any objective and carefully considered analysis of the firmly established principles and basic givens in the situation clearly show that the claim that Israel has no choice but to talk to and negotiate with the PLO is no more than a delusion and a prescription for running after a mirage. Hence, the attempt to get the PLO involved in the peacemaking process will not make Israel face a deadlock. No, as a matter of fact, this attempt will bring about a deadlock plaguing the Palestine question. Such an attempt is an unfailing prescription for making the [Palestine] problem revolve in a vicious circle and perpetuating the

suffering and confusion experienced by the Palestinian people. This is a prescription to make the Palestinian people revolve in the whirlpool of bloody violence, God forbid.

In light of these facts, constants, and objective givens, it becomes clear:

First, that the PLO has always been and still is a major and almost insurmountable obstacle to the attainment of a satisfactory solution to the Palestine question.

Second, that the Palestinians who are sincerely concerned with finding an honorable solution to their problem are bound to resolve the problem posed by the PLO and its intellectual and physical terrorism, which is being brandished and directed toward the entire Palestinian people. One still recalls the 10 bullets that Yasir 'Arafat has recently threatened to fire at the chest of any Palestinian who calls for stopping the uprising or for declaring a truce.

Jordanian Comment on Economy Criticized

JN0102120589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 31 Jan 89

[From "Brevity Is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] The Jordanian newspaper AL-DUSTUR is trying to play the role of the lying, pessimistic, and rancorous prophet who predicts a black future full of failures, ruinations, and disasters for Israel. Listen to what that paper says:

The austerity plan announced by Israel will further raise the already high rate of unemployment and lead the Israeli entity to real economic disaster, where more sedative doses will be of no use, and also to more social disasters.

Predicting disasters for Israel has always been the dream of Arab mediamen, including the writer of the article in the Jordanian paper. We tell him and his ilk: It would be better for you to turn to the Jordanian economy and the Jordanian dinar and to do all you can to preserve them. As for the Israeli economy, we will take care of it.

King Holds Telephone Conversation With Al-Asad

JN3101162089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone contact with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today. The two leaders exchanged views on the current Arab situation, issues of common interest, and fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

Visiting PLO Official on W. Bank Exports

JN0202114089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Feb 89 p 2

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Hamdi al-Tabba', minister of industry and trade, yesterday received 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and representative in Jordan, and head of its economic affairs and planning department.

They discussed economic issues within the Jordanian-PLO relations, especially those related to the passage of West Bank citrus fruits, olives, and olive oil products to the Arab markets through Jordan and means of increasing these exports.

British Parliamentary Team Meets Senate Speaker

JN3001173689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The speaker of the Senate, Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi, has said that Jordan, under the leadership of his majesty the king, firmly believes that the Palestinian problem constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said the chance available now for settling the Palestinian question has never emerged before, and that a serious international movement to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region is required to make use of it.

Mr al-Lawzi made the remarks at a meeting with a visiting British parliamentary delegation this morning. Mr al-Lawzi said that his majesty the king's call for holding the Middle East international peace conference expresses Jordan's strong belief in the importance of the international legitimacy. The king's call, Mr al-Lawzi said, also demonstrates Jordan's belief in the significance of the role of the UN Security Council's five permanent members in implementing the council's resolutions 242 and 338, as well as in guaranteeing peace in the region.

The head of the British parliamentary delegation, Mr Richard Page, said that his majesty's decision to sever Jordan's legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was a wise and farsighted step. He said the Jordanian move placed the Palestinians in the front in the peace process. He also added that the international view towards Israel has changed due to the moderate Arab efforts.

The British parliamentarians arrived in Amman earlier today on a 2-day visit to Jordan to familiarize themselves with the developments of the Palestinian problem and prospects for solving it.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN0102115689 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 1 Feb (PETRA)—The British parliamentary delegation left Amman yesterday for the occupied Arab territories following a 2-day visit to Jordan.

In a predeparture statement, the head of the delegation stressed that the convening of an international conference for peace is the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. He referred to the British Government's positive stand toward the Middle East crisis and the need to achieve peace in the region.

He added that the Palestinians have the right to live in peace just as all the region's peoples. He asserted that the delegation's visit to the occupied territories is aimed at getting acquainted with the true situation there and to convey this to the British officials so that they will be able to formulate a comprehensive concept of political action aimed at convening the international conference and achieving peace in the Middle East.

Turkish General Meets With King Husayn 31 Jan

JN3101164189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon General Necip Torumtay, chief of staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, and his accompanying delegation. Gen Torumtay conveyed His Excellency Turkish President Kenan Evren's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people. The two sides reviewed the strong bilateral relations between Jordan and Turkey and ways to bolster military cooperation.

His majesty the king awarded the Turkish guest the Jordanian Al-Kawkab Medal, First Class. The guest presented the shield of the Turkish Armed Forces as a gift to his majesty.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the chief of staff and a number of his assistants, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, and the Turkish ambassador in Amman. The Turkish guest, the accompanying delegation, and the others had lunch with his majesty the king.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN0102143689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister and defense minister, received at his office today General Necip Torumtay, chief of staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, and the accompanying delegation.

They discussed relations of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Turkey and means to bolster them in the interests of the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Planning Ministry Signs Grant Agreement With EEC
JN3101211589 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] An agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning today under which the EEC will grant Jordan 2 million ECU, equivalent to 1.3 million Jordanian dinars.

The grant will be used for financing economic and technical feasibility studies and the preparation of the final designs for building Al-Wala and Al-Nukhaylah dams in the south. The money is part of a 22.75 million dinar grant offered by the EEC under a technical protocol signed in 1987. The European Investment Bank will contribute to the financing of Al-Wala Dam by offering 11 million dinars in medium term loans. The agreement was signed by the Minister of Planning Dr Tahir Kan'an and the head of the EEC delegation to Jordan Mr (Valko Veski).

Alliance Leader Discusses Organization's Platform
JN3101143889 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 27 Jan 89 p 4

[Interview with Jamal al-Sha'ir, secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Alliance, by 'Arif Salim; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Salim] The Democratic Unionist Alliance [Al-Tajammu' al-Dimuqrati al-Wahdawi] which you head is a Jordanian party under foundation. Is this an indication that Jordan will open its doors to the multiparty system? And what is this party's philosophy and programs?

[Al-Sha'ir] The Jordanian Constitution stipulates that the formation of parties is an absolute right for Jordanian citizen. The Jordanian Government's philosophy is based on political pluralism despite the crises which have afflicted the country and prevented public political life and plurality. We can observe that there is some kind of recognition and coexistence between government circles and political life and plurality as an established fact. Several political factions are active in Jordan and the general trend in the Arab world is toward political plurality. In Iraq, the intention is to open the door of government to parties other than the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party through the National Front and political plurality. The same thing applies to Tunisia and Algeria.

So with the return of parliamentary life, I believe that parliament must reflect the different opinions which represent the various social interests. The Democratic Unionist Alliance raises these pressing demands. Its philosophy is primarily based on the belief in Arab unionist relations, parliamentary democracy, and political plurality. The Alliance believes that the solution of the Palestine question must harmonize with Palestinian national and pan-Arab aspirations, and that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We opposed the severance of ties [with the West Bank] at first, because of our unionist trend. However, we then saw the political advantage from the severance of these ties, which was to project the PLO's political presence in the world. The Alliance also believes in a mixed economy between the public and private sectors.

[Salim] Does the Alliance presently have an organizational structure and support in public circles?

[Al-Sha'ir] There are a few political factions in Jordan today. The largest is the Islamic religious trend with all its factions which is armed with the holy Koran. When the other political parties failed to solve the Arab citizen's problems, it was natural for the religious trend to become active, as is the case in several countries of the Arab homeland whenever there is a failure to resolve problems and public life recedes. There is also the general Palestinian trend.

The membership of the Democratic Unionist Alliance does not exceed a few hundred. It has, hoewever, a definite organizational structure represented by the general congress which meets once a year. The congress has produced a 15-member executive committee. The committee elects the president, vice president, secretary general, and treasurer of the Alliance. The committee also elects the five members of the general secretariat which runs daily work. There are of course popular committees, such as the central governorate committee, the women's committee, the youth committee, and so forth. This party takes part in political life, but it is unlicensed and under foundation. I expect political life to become active after the return of parliamentary life. We are working for a broader national alliance. If we manage to merge with a big political party, we would consider that a step on the correct path. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves New Employees Allowance Rates
JN0202155689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Feb 89 p 6

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Excerpt] Civil Service Commission sources have announced the details of the allowances recently approved by the cabinet regarding the implementation of Paragraph 1, Clause 6, of Standard Allowance Regulation No 23 of 1989. According to this paragraph, it was decided to give extra allowances, with a maximum of 30 percent, to a number of groups of employees working in certain professions in light of the difficulty of work, the responsibility shouldered, and the place of work. Following are the details of these professions, the different villages in the Kingdom, and the rate of the set allowance:

1. The professions practiced by employees who actually perform a specific speciality and those practiced by employees who, while performing them, are subjected to any form of danger or harm from external human or material sources, are given the allowance rate shown for each profession below as long as the employee is actually practicing his profession in it:

A 30-percent allowance
— Engineers working in different fields of their speciality.
— Doctors working in hospitals, clinics, and health centers.
— Registered nurses working in hospitals, clinics, and health centers.

A 20-percent allowance
— System analysts and programmers.
— Educational supervisors and educational guides.
— Laboratory, maintainance, safety, instruments, x-ray, physiotherapy, speech and hearing, artificial limbs, anesthetic, general health, photography, aerials, electrical, mechanical, printing, and explosives technicians and similar professions.
— Assistant nurses working in hospitals, clinics, and health centers.
— Chemists and nutritionists.

A 10-percent allowance
— Nursing workers and midwives working in hospitals, clinics, and health centers.

2. The professions which are performed by employees who are responsible for public funds are given the allowance rate shown for each profession below as long as the employee is actually performing it:

A 20 percent allowance
— Professions of financial director, head of an audit section, accountant, treasurer, store keeper, property and supply officer, financial auditor, tax estimater, quantity surveyor, and project manager.

A 10-percent allowance
— Collector and librarians.

3. Employees performing supervisory professions in the department's headquarters or its branches in the governorates or districts are given the allowance rate shown for each profession below as long as the employee is actually performing it:

A 20-percent allowance
— Assistant secretary general; director of a section at the department's main headquarters; director of a branch section at the center of the governorate or district; principal of a higher education academy, community college, or school; project manager; and district, subdistrict, and country officers. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y Accuses Israeli Media of 'Lies'

JN0102121689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Feb 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Our Economy Does Not Need an Israeli Certificate"]

[Text] The Israeli propaganda media have failed to deceive anyone through the lies it is disseminating about the Jordanian economy. The Israeli media also failed to convince anyone that these lies came from an objective analysis or scientific research. The smell of a hostile fabrication is obvious in these lies which vanished after their evil objectives were revealed to everyone. The Israeli media are now making indirect threats that they will return to launching campaigns against the Jordanian economy if our papers continue to publish reports carried by world media on the situation of the Israeli economy. It is clear that this excessive sensitivity is due to Israel's awareness of the predicament caused by the hostile Israeli policy. It is also clear that our papers cannot disregard a predicament that the whole world is talking about.

But instead of becoming convinced that their settlement and armament policies, their repressive practices in the occupied territories, their recruiting of mercenaries for Lahd's militias in southern Lebanon and financing them, and their obstructing of the peace process, are the main reasons for the deterioration of their economy. Instead of giving up these policies and practices, the Israelis, as usual, are asking others to close their eyes and not talk discuss the effects of these policies. Needless to say, this fanatic policy cannot hide the facts, just as an ostrich cannot hide its body by burying its head in the sand.

The Jordanian economy does not need an Israeli certificate, because it is a peaceful economy aimed at prosperity, stability, and self-sufficiency. This economy is not ashamed of the difficult stage it is passing through as long as this stage has come to an end, as King Husayn said, and as long as moving from the consumption pattern to the production pattern has become a prevailing practice in our society. So, the threat that the Israeli propaganda media will return to circulating lies about our economy will not help the Israeli economy and will not prevent others from observing the condition it has reached. The return to spreading lies will not influence our economy, particularly since we are not afraid of these lies. Moreover, our economic process is stable and has clear trends and objectives. Our citizens support and trust this process and feel responsible toward rendering it a success.

Our papers will also not be affected by the fanatic policy of the Israeli propaganda media and will not accept the implicit deal which is being proposed by the Israeli media. The national, pan-Arab, and humane message carried by our papers can never be contained by an implicit or explicit threat by the Israeli aggressors.

Paper Cited on Iraqi Readiness To Send Troops

WA0302190089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 Jan 89 p 17

[Text] A Lebanese newspaper attributed to Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, an announcement of his country's readiness to dispatch Iraqi troops to Lebanon to maintain security.

The newspaper AL-DIYAR, published in the eastern sector of Beirut, quoted 'Aziz as saying that Iraq is ready for and is demanding that Iraqi troops be sent to Lebanon to participate in the maintenance of security, until Lebanon recovers its sovereignty through deployment of its army. He was also quoted as saying that he will not accept an exclusive role for Syria in the Lebanese arena. 'Aziz said that "Iraq is insistent upon the Arabization of Syria's role in Lebanon and that he has no objection to participating through membership in the follow-up committee if the Arabization of Syria's role is guaranteed."

Tariq 'Aziz stated, "I informed my Saudi colleague Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, that it is better for us to Arabize the Lebanese situation than to Lebanonize the Arab situation."

'Awn Returns From 'Fruitful' Arab League Talks

NC0202174889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Michel 'Awn returned to Lebanon from Tunis at 1430 today. Awaiting him at Adma military airfield were Ministers 'Isam Ajbu Jamrah and Edgar Ma'luf; Brigadier General Nadim Lutayf, director general of public security; Brigadier General Samir Mitri, director general of the internal security forces; Colonel 'Amir Shihab, director of intelligence; and other officers and senior officials.

Before leaving Carthage Airport, 'Awn told reporters that the Arab League's ministerial committee made fruitful efforts and will continue to pursue its tasks. 'Awn thanked the committee, the Arab League, and the Tunisian people and President for hosting the meetings. He said:

[Begin recording] ['Awn] The meetings were fruitful, but they are the beginning of a longer road which must be pursued. A problem which has persisted for 14 years cannot be resolved within hours. We need some time to deal with this problem which has become quite intricate. We need good diagnosis and proper treatment. I believe that the Arab League's move was a good one this time and I am hoping for the best.

[Unidentified reporter] Were you satisified with the handling of the Lebanese issue by the Arab ministerial committee and the Arab League's secretariat?

['Awn] As I said, this was the beginning, and this means that the focus was on listening and diagnosis rather than treatment. We hope that the treatment will come later. I think that I briefed the committee on the Lebanese issue as I see it from my current position. I gave them an updated version of our problems and I hope that diagnosis will become more accurate in future meetings and the treatment will be more effective.

[Reporter] Did you feel that the ministerial committee was well-informed on the various aspects of the Lebanese problem?

['Awn] Yes, of course. But these matters and the various positions should not be made public. The positions taken now are designed to bring about certain results and publicity could only harm the current efforts. We should avoid publicity and concentrate instead on practical ways of resolving the crisis.

[Reporter] Did you have a last word to address to the Tunisian people?

['Awn] Of course, I salute the Tunisians as a brother and I wish them stability under the leadership of His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. Naturally, we should thank the committee, but we believe that its mission has not ended. We thank it for the efforts it has exerted so far, which we hope will continue. Arab League Secretary General Gchedli Klibi made considerable efforts before the committee began its work and, God willing, he will continue these in the near future to guarantee its success.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Talks

NC0302141089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 3 Feb 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning under the chairmanship of General Michel 'Awn, who briefed the council on the talks in Tunis and their results besides the steps the Arab committee plans to take. Gen 'Awn also informed the ministers of the side meetings and activities the delegation and he himself made for the purpose of bringing Lebanon out of the tight circle of regional monopoly to the level of joint Arab responsibility and international concern.

The Council of Ministers expressed satisfaction regarding the genuine efforts of the Arab committee and confirmed the clear Lebanese stand expressed by Gen 'Awn at the Tunis meeting. The ministers called on Lebanese factions to make use of the regional and international atmospheres aimed at achieving peace and solving problems with dialogue and seize this ooportunity to agree on the principles of liberation, sovereignty, and unity which will get to national accord on the basis of equality, justice and comprehensive reform.

After the meeting, Gen 'Awn answered reporters questions. He said: What Shaykh al-Sabbah [Arab Committee chairman] said does not express our convictions. He did not want to, 'Awn added, announce everything the committee became convinced of for the good of the efforts.

Question: Al-Sabah says the Syrian Army is not occupying one?

Answer: The aim is that the Syrian Army leaves Lebanon to the Lebanese.

Question: Did you come back from Tunis with the beginning of a solution?

Answer: Lebanon now has taken advanced position within the Arab family.

Question: The meeting with Abu 'Amma [Yasir 'Arafat]—could it help the situation in the South?

Answer: Of course.

Officials Criticize Talks Between 'Awn, 'Arafat

Hawi Calls Meeting 'Shameful'

NC0302153489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has called for an uprising in the Israeli-occupied southern areas and for the escalation of the Lebanese national resistance so that this will become an offshoot of the uprising of the people of Palestine and uproot the occupation from our land.

Interviewed by the Voice of the Mountain, Hawi attacked the recent U.S. veto against the Lebanese complaint, saying that it is America which displaces the citizens of the South and Al-Biqa' by defending Israel. After he called for voices to be raised in support of the issue of the deportees, Hawi said: We express our thanks to the Palestinian revolution forces, which oppose the deviation course, and to the PFLP, which is speaking out against this course.

The meeting of Brother Yasir 'Arafat with General Michel 'Awn which has been reported was shameful. As for Palestinian weapons in Lebanon and brother 'Arafat's offer to give arms to Michel 'Awn, we said yesterday and we reiterate today that he who does not have anything has given to one who does not deserve to receive. The Palestinian arms in Lebanon are not a toy in the hands of 'Arafat. Furthermore, Michel 'Awn does not represent Lebanese legitimacy and is thus not entitled to be given these arms. There is a nationalist legitimacy represented by the Lebanese national decisionmaking.

There is also a Palestinian popular and national resolution. This resolution insists on the alliance between the two rifles [Palestinian and Lebanese], cohesion of their struggles for the sake of liberation—the liberation of the occupied border strip—and support for the Palestinian people's struggle so that this people can liberate its land. Hawi added: We wonder whether the Lebanese blood, shed to defend the Palestinian revolution, has been wasted.

PPSF Condemns Meeting

NC0302161389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] A media source in the Lebanese branch of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has condemned the 'Arafat-'Awn meeting.

In a statement today, the source said: In the view of the PPSF, any party which engages in meetings with the Palestinian revolution must be a nationalist and progressive one working for the interest of the pan-Arab march and believing in the legitimacy of our sacred struggle for the restoration of our natural rights on our national Palestinian soil.

Therefore, we condemn the meeting which took place between Yasir 'Arafat and General Michel 'Awn. Concerning 'Arafat's statement on the Palestinian rifle, we declare that it is our Palestinian people who decide the fate of this rifle. Certainly this people will only decide to escalate the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy and all the conspirators against our just cause.

Hence, we believe that our rifle in Lebanon is in the service of the national and pan-Arab plan against the Zionist occupation within the framework of the Lebanese national resistance front and in confrontation with all the Zionized isolationist plans.

Thus we call for an eloquent stand toward the PLO leadership in support of our people in Lebanon, not the contrary, as 'Arafat's statement indicated. Our people have had enough statements, and their price is being paid by Palestinian citizens in the steadfast camps.

Junblatt Voices Displeasure

NC0302164589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] In a subservient stand, PSP leader Walid Junblatt today affirmed his support for the Arab committee's efforts on the condition that such efforts be made in full understanding and coordination with Syria. Interviewed by the ARAB WORLD WEEKLY NEWS AGENCY, Junblatt said that no Arab or international initiative will succeed unless it is preceded by an understanding with Syria.

Furthermore, Junblatt has criticized PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recognition of the legitimacy of General Michel 'Awn's government. In a statement released in Beirut today, he said the meeting in Tunis between Gen 'Awn and 'Arafat constitutes a recognition of the legitimacy of Gen 'Awn's government. This meeting, he added, was not in the interests of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Hizballah Official on 'Another' Hostage Agreement

NC0202172989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] An official of Hizballah's Shura Council has told the Bayrut News Agency that the agreement with the Amal Movement to halt the battles in Iqlim al-Tuffah requires another agreement between Tehran and Damascus on Shi'ite decisionmaking in Lebanon and on the issue of foreign hostages.

The responsible source added that there are still deep differences between Iran and Syria on the question of the hostages' release. He ruled out Syria's agreement to these two conditions [not further specified]. This strengthens the belief that Damascus might use the Amal Movement to deal a new blow to Hizballah.

Hizballah's Al-Musawi on Islamic State

NC0202181989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi believes that the agreement signed in Damascus between Hizballah and the Amal Movement will unleash the struggle against Israel.

Al-Musawi added that the agreement does not necessarily mean that we share the same political views as Amal. Hizballah, he added, clearly advocates the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Lebanon, while the Amal Movement works within institutions that demand broader authority within these institutions for the Shi'ites.

According to the Hizballah official, the term full liberation is discretionary. For Amal, he said, it could mean the liberation of the Lebanese territories, while for us in Hizballah it means the liberation of all the Arab and Islamic territories.

Evacuation of Dead, Wounded From Towns Begins

NC0202125889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The implementation of the first stage of the agreement reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah yesterday regarding the evacuation of the dead and wounded from Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar began at 1045 today. A convoy of eight vehicles accompanied by a medical team left from the Red Cross center in Sidon heading toward the two towns. [passage omitted]

We have just learned that the Lebanese Red Cross vehicles entered Jba' at 1245 today and evacuated seven seriously wounded persons. [passage omitted]

Amal, Hizballah Agree on Detainees, Withdrawal

NC0302123889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] The Amal Movement-Hizballah coordination committee held its second meeting at the headquarters of the Syrian observers command in the Beau Rivage Hotel today. The committee members continued discussing the implementation of the remaining provisions of the Damascus agreement. During the meeting, agreement was reached on the following:

1. Withdrawal from Jba' and 'Ayn bu Siwar will be completed, sieges will be lifted, and roads will be reopened on Thursday, 9 February.

2. Residents of Iqlim al-Tuffah who had been displaced by the fighting will be asked to return to their villages and houses on Friday, 10 February.

3. All detainees held by both sides will be released, and expellees will be able to return on Friday, 10 February.

The committee members agree to hold another meeting within the next 24 hours.

Acting Speaker Calls for 9 Feb Presidential Vote

NC0302111789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Deputy Kazim al-Khalil, senior member of the Chamber of Deputies and pro tempore speaker, held a news conference today in which he called on the deputies to attend a session at Mansur Palace next Thursday [9 February] to elect a president of the Republic in the event a quorum can be obtained.

Requests Quorum

NC0302124289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Deputy Kazim al-Khalil, senior member of the Chamber of Deputies and pro tempore speaker, held a news conference today in which he called on the deputies to attend a session at Mansur Palace next Thursday [9 February] in order to elect a Chamber speaker in the event a quorum can be obtained, prior to electing a president of the republic. [passage omitted]

Al-Khalil remarked that in the event a quorum is obtained and a speaker is elected, the deputies will have performed a patriotic and constitutional duty and will

have paved the way for electing a president of the republic. He asserted: I am not a candidate for the speaker's position. [passage omitted]

Complaint Lodged With UN Over Deportations
NC0202124389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today asked Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, to submit a new complaint to the UN Security Council against Israel for deporting two more citizens from the occupied town of Dayr Mimas yesterday. This is the third Lebanese complaint within 4 days against Israel for its continued deportation of southern citizens from their villages and property.

The UN Security Council is expected to hold a session today at Lebanon's request to discuss this complaint.

Army Positions Shelled in Dahr al-Wahsh
NC0202203189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh have been subject to intermittent shelling and machine-gun fire from nearby PSP positions.

Resistance Member Killed, 2 Wounded in Clash
NC0202125389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal has announced that at 2200 yesterday, while one of its groups was trying to enter the occupied border strip to carry out a mission, it encountered an ambush staged jointly by enemies and agents near the Sribbin triangle. Clashes involving various types of weapons ensued between the group and the enemy and his agents, leaving one member of the group dead and two others wounded. They were moved to a hospital in the liberated areas.

The occupation forces subsequently combed the area for other members of the group.

Resistance Attacks Lahd's Barracks, Other Areas
NC0202184389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 feb 89

[Text] A resistance group last night attacked agent Lahd's barracks in Jazzin and an Al-Kurum position adjacent to the barracks. A violent clash ensued in which various weapons were used.

Resistance fighters also attacked an agent position in [word indistinct] near Bint Jubayl. A clash ensued between the resistance fighters and the men there. According to sources close to the agent Lahd militia, three resistance fighters were martyred, and the rest of the group returned to base.

Group Claims Attack on Syrians in West Beirut
NC0302062089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The Bayrut Martyrs Battalion has announced that it shelled two posts of the Syrian occupation army near the Holiday Inn hotel in West Beirut at dawn today. The battalion said that the shelling caused a fire and the injury of several members of the Syrian occupation forces.

Damascus Radio Urges 'Realistic' Stand on Lebanon

JN0102155189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arab League committee has decided to extend the period of its contacts with the Lebanese parties that were invited to Tunisia. The extension surprised nobody. This is due to the nature of the committee's mission and the difficulty and complexity of the crisis. These factors will make observers expect the extension of time so the committee can accomplish its contacts. Also, there are difficulties due to the different proposals of the Lebanese parties invited to Tunisia. This crisis should be resolved to save Lebanon from its present abnormal situation and to prevent the impact of this abnormal situation on the overall Arab situation in the coming stage. In the coming stage, the two superpowers will gear their efforts to resolve the regional disputes within the framework of the process aimed at following up the detente in international relations.

The departure for Tunisia does not mean at all that a solution is around the corner and that the Lebanese parties miraculously relinquished their previous stands and carried with them new convictions to achieve national reconciliation in Tunis after it was difficult to achieve in Beirut. The realistic approach in dealing with the Lebanese issue calls for consideration of the essence of the differences, the complications formed throughout approximately 15 years, the options in the Lebanese arena, and the principles of each party involved in the internal conflict. The realistic approach also calls for knowledge of what is possible and impossible under the prevailing circumstances in Lebanon.

Those seeking a real national solution that can be implemented in Lebanon must not set impossible and unrealistic conditions that will certainly be rejected by the other parties. They must search for common grounds that would gather the Lebanese on a national basis and equality. They must base their efforts on dealing with the cause of the disease, not cosmetic tackling of the appearance. They must know Lebanon's structure, geography, history, affiliations, and identity, not illusions based on plans that do not seek the wellbeing of Lebanon and the Arabs—plans that only aim at torpedoing the structure of Lebanon that is contrary to the structure of the racist, facist Zionist entity. Those who place the wagon before the horse do not want to leave the point where they stand. Those who do not consider the interests, feelings, will, and wishes of the other Lebanese parties not only undermine the possibility of rapprochement, reconciliation, and the course of national dialogue, they are also premeditatedly placing mines on the grounds on which Lebanon was established and without which Lebanon cannot exist and continue.

Lebanon does not exist for one faction. It cannot be divided into masters and slaves or classified into different classes. Nobody and no party can unite the Lebanese through words, threats, or seeking support from enemies and overt and covert external forces on wrong or non-national stands. Israel is the aggressor. It is occupying parts of Lebanon and has an interest in undermining Lebanon's unity and coexistence among its people. Israel has ambitions in seizing Lebanon's regional role. It cannot be placed on an equal footing with sisterly Syria that has an interest in the existence and continuation of the united Lebanon in which its sons coexist under equality and justice. Syria's national and pan-Arab interests are not contrary to the Arab Lebanon that is united in its people and land and which plays a distinguished role in its Arab environment and the world.

Those who dare to put Syria and Israel on an equal footing cannot have a pan-Arab and national trend. Those who dare to do so would not have reached this situation today had it not been for Syria's assistance to Lebanon to prevent the domination of one faction over another or to annihilate one faction with another. Syria has never been on the side of one Lebanese party, sect, or group. Syria has always been on the side of Lebanon and all Lebanese brothers in as much as they are on the side of their homeland. Syria was never an obstacle to Lebanese national reconciliation. Rather, Syria has always extended its hand to the Lebanese brothers to march on the path of national reconcilation.

Those who speak about the Syrian presence in Lebanon are either tendentious and unfair or ignorant of the Lebanese issue and Syria's stand on it. They are ignorant to the extent that they did not read President Hafiz al-Asad's speeches on Lebanon, the concern for its independence, and the readiness for all steps that would help achieve national reconciliation and solutions and restore Lebanon to the normal situation. What should be done when some people's purpose has become an illness, their association with suspect options has become a disease, and their personal ambitions have become a plague?

Syria is not provoked by false accusations and slanders. Syria will stick to its principled stands, extending its hand to all Lebanese brothers to help them save their homeland and converge on the national common grounds, not on non-national options and wagers on the forces that are hostile to Lebanon and the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Arab League Committee

JN0302085689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Feb 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has noted that most Lebanese parties emphasize giving priority to political reforms and the attainment of a formula to provide both security and justice in a unified Lebanon and to end the Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab ministerial committee has concluded this fact. The paper explains that the committee could have taken practical measures to move Lebanon out of its ordeal had the isolationist party showed a national interest and a political flexibility in its meetings with this committee.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It has become clear to all Arabs and the world that the party which obstructs the efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem and create an atmosphere that will help Lebanon restore its security, political, and social wellbeing is that which adheres to external appearance and leaves essence aside. Those people also reject the priority given to the political reforms in Lebanon, adhere to an outdated political formula, and regard the aggressive Zionist presence which destroyed Lebanon as a factor of balance in Lebanon and not as an aggressive, subversive factor. It was not enough for those people to evade their national responsibilities toward Lebanon but they have also been linked to Israel and its schemes to partition and fragment Lebanon.

AL-QABAS on Appointment of New USSR Envoy

JN2801190089 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
27 Jan 89 pp 1, 20

[By Hisham Milhim]

[Excerpts] Washington—AL-QABAS has learned from well-informed political sources in Washington that Moscow has decided to appoint Soviet diplomat and Middle East expert Aleksandr Zotov as its ambassador to Syria, a move which observers here interpret as an important political message that might further dampen Syrian-Soviet relations.

The sources say that Damascus, which is familiar with Zotov's political background, is still studying the appointment and has not yet made a decision on it. Zotov, who speaks fluent Arabic, has played a major role in the improvement of Soviet-Israeli relations in recent years. He paved the way for this improvement while serving in the CPSU Central Committee as the officer in charge of domestic Jewish affairs, including the revival of "Hebrew culture," the dissolution of anti-Zionist establishments, and other measures geared toward reassuring Israel about the conditions of Soviet Jewry. Zotov was with Soviet Foreign Ministry official Karen Brutents when he met with Shim'on Peres in Rome in the spring of 1988.

To underline Zotov's important role in the "new Soviet thinking" toward the Middle East, observers point out that it was Zotov who wrote Mikhail Gorbachev's important speech during Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow in 1987. In the speech, the Soviet leader said it was unnatural for diplomatic relations not to exist between the USSR and Israel. Before Gorbachev's assumption of power, Zotov served for several years at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, where he cultivated a wide range of relationships with U.S. officials, academicians, and Middle East experts.

Zotov was a close aide to Anatoliy Dobrynin, then Soviet ambassador in Washington. Zotov continued to work with Dobrynin when he was transferred to Moscow. Zotov also regularly attended the political and academic seminars organized and chaired by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter at Emory University in Atlanta. Zotov had served in several Arab capitals, including Baghdad and Cairo. The experts who knew Zotov in Washington agree that the man is clever and dynamic. One expert said Zotov was well known for his enthusiasm about the "peace process" in the Middle East and "advocation of a balanced Soviet policy in the region and dialogue with the United States to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict" even before the advent of perestroika.

The same expert added that the appointment of Zotov in Damascus "is an important Soviet message to Syria which simply says: Give up your illusions about a military option against Israel." The expert, a former government official who knows Zotov very well, said his appointment is a continuation of the message Gorbachev tried to convey to Syria in the spring of 1987 about his opposition to the military option and his readiness to help Syria politically. [passage omitted]

After referring to Zotov's experience, dynamism, and closeness to decisionsmakers in Moscow, another expert said Zotov's appointment in Damascus emphasizes the importance Moscow attaches to its relations with Moscow, "but it also means that Gorbachev wants to play down the military factor in this relationship and concentrate more on diplomatic cooperation. This does not at all mean that Moscow will halt supplies to Damascus. It just means that the concentration will be on the political relationship, which suits Moscow at this stage, and possibly also Syria." Although it is not known that Syria has rejected the appointment of any Soviet ambassador in Damascus, experts on Syrian affairs point out that Damascus once requested the removal of a former Soviet ambassador because the Syrian Foreign Ministry could not deal with him.

Afghanistan

Pakistan Blamed for Downing AN-32 Transport Plane

LD0202163889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Pakistani authorities, contrary to all international laws, existing principles and norms of international aviation, have shot down an Afghan passenger plane. An AN-32 plane carrying 5 passengers, a crew of 4, and 4 tonnes of foodstuffs flying to Khowst, left Kabul at 2006 on 31 January. When entering Khowst airspace at 2037, it lost its bearings due to bad weather and technical difficulties, and entered Pakistani airspace. The pilot circled the plane for exactly 1 hour, while continuously asking for assistance.

We may draw your attention to the telephone conversation of the Afghan pilot who, prior to the shooting down of the plane, had been asking for assitance from the nearest Pakistani airport. The following conversation was recorded in the Afghan aerial center:

[Begin recording] Assistance, assistance, assist me, assist the Afghan plane. [words indistinct] [end recording]

However, on the instruciton of the Pakistani military authorities, an F-16 aircraft—made in the United States—attacked and shot down the Afghan plane. All pasengers and crew were killed.

By this inhumane action the Pakitani militarists not only trampled on the accepted international norms of aviation, but, contrary to humane principles, answered the call for assistance by firing rockets.

'Strong Protest' Conveyed

LD0202191889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] A source from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon and the Government of Afghanistan conveyed a strong protest to him through the acting director of the First Political Department of that ministry. The protest is as follows:

An AN-32 transport aircraft of the Republic of Afghanistan, carrying 9 persons including passengers and crew, was transporting primary consumer goods from Kabul to Khowst major district on 31 January, when it got lost as a result of bad weather and requested assistance from the closest airport. The pilot's voice was even taped. Regretfully, however, this airplane was threatened by Pakistani F-16 aircraft, which escorted it inside Pakistani airspace and shot it down with missiles.

The Republic of Afghanistan severely condemns this action by the Pakistani authorities, expresses its strongest protest, and once again demands that the Pakistani authorities refrain from such inhuman acts, which result in further tension in the relations of the two countries. Otherwise the grave consequences of this act will rest with the responsible authorities in Pakistan.

Najibullah Speech on Pakistan, U.S. 'Pressure'

LD0202203389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Speech by President Najibullah broadcast on radio and television; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of god, the merciful, the compassionate.

Dear compatriots: In line with my previous conversations with you, today I would like to talk to you about recent developments in the situation inside and around Afghanistan. Nine months have elapsed since the Geneva accords came into force. Our compatriots and the people of the world are aware that during this period, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have observed all their pledges seriously and sincerely and we witness that the units of the Soviet Union, in accordance with the envisaged timetable in these accords, are returning to their country. We are now waiting for their troops to cross the final line and leave the borders of our country.

From the day that the Geneva accords were signed, the activities of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have not been restricted only to the return of the Soviet units, but numerous efforts have been made and measures taken to ensure the implementation of the Geneva accords and to find a peaceful, political solution to the situation in the country.

In addition, the Republic of Afghanistan has made every possible effort to implement the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. Within the framework of these efforts, Yuliy Voronsov, deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union and Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, paid visits to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Italy. He held detailed discussions with various factions of the Afghan opposition concerning a peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

Recently, the Republic of Afghanistan invited UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to travel to Kabul and Islamabad and make the necessary efforts to implement the Geneva accords in accordance with the responsibility he has been entrusted with by the UN resolution. In the course of the past 9 months the Republic of Afghanistan has done everything within its power inside and outside the country, to help the process of maintaining peace and these accord.

Dear compatriots, which pledges under the Geneva accords has the opposite side, that is Pakistan, observed so far? I am confident that all of you will agree with me that not only has Pakistan not observed its categoric pledges, but with blatant and repeated violations of

document 1 of the agreements, it has intensified and broadened armed interference and aggression and other forms of interference against the Republic of Afghanistan. To cite some examples, the training centers of the armed opposition groups continue to be active in the territory of that country.

The weapons and ammunition depots have not been dismantled. The military centers of the opposition are active and the transporting of weapons inside the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan is continuing. The central and local offices of the opposition parties and groups are continuing their activities as before. Publicity establishments, radio stations, and other facilities for the Afghan opposition in Pakistan have remained as before. And contrary to the provisions of the document on noninterference, no measures whatsoever has been taken towards their dismantling.

On the contrary, they have more than ever before been equipped and activated. Propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan by the Pakistan propagandists is continuing as in the past. In addition, the militia and Armed Forces of Pakistan, more then ever before, directly and openly take part in the subversive military activities of the armed opposition groups. Also, armed aggression by the Pakistani Armed Forces against Afghan territory and airspace has considerably increased. Incidents in recent months in Qandahar, Paktia, and Nangarhar Provinces bear undeniable witness to this reality.

In addition to such interferences in the internal affairs of our country, a large number of units and companies of Pakistan's Army are placed close to our borders. Unfortunately, the United States, too, has not honored its commitments in this regard, as one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords. As the armed extremists groups have been unsuccessful in their military activities against the state, they have recently resorted to putting economic pressure on the people and inhabitants of the Republic of Afghanistan, with Pakistan's backing. Convoys of foodstuffs were attacked and plundered by the armed extremists groups.

In the face of this situation, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan was able and had the right to request that the Soviet Union not withdraw a number of its military forces and leave them in Afghanistan. However, we did not do this. Taking into consideration the interests of both countries, with the hope of creating better condition for peace and compromise among Afghans, and for the sake of ensuring peace in the country, we implemented the withdrawal of Soviet forces in accordance with the Geneva accords. Just as we are in favor of the full honest implementation of the Geneva accords, naturally, we are also in favor of the completion of the withdrawal of the forces.

Everyone knows that if the other side observes the Geneva accords sincerely and firmly, if the interference in Afghan internal affairs is halted, and if certain circles in Pakistan and a number of other foreign countries refrain from provoking national hostility and armed clashes in Afghanistan, the possibility fully exists for a national compromise and peace to be established in our country. So, a broad-based coalition government could be formed with the participation of all the forces and groups in Afghanistan without any prejudice. This fact obviously is in the interests of our people and in the interests of neighboring countries. This could contribute to peace and security in the region and in the world.

Dear compatriots, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the framework of the national reconciliation policy, in conformity with the instructions of the Islamic religion, and based on Afghan traditions and all the civic laws and international norms, has done everything possible to end the war and ensure peace and a safe life for our suffering compatriots. However, you can see again that in response to such humanitarian measures, the extremists have resorted to actions which fully contradict Islamic rites and the interests of the Afghan people.

The Republic of Afghanistan, based on the responsibility that it shoulders towards the people of the country, in accepting difficulties and [words indistinct], has delivered foodstuffs to Kabul to provide bread and fuel to the people. However, we can see what the extremists do. They plunder bread, sugar, and fuel belonging to our poor and hard-working people. They create long lines of children, elderly women, and other citizens in Kabul city in front of bakeries and fuel tanks.

It is really painful for each Muslim and Afghan to see so many families including their innocent children half hungry and spending nights in the cold of winter. I want to express thanks and appreciation for the patience of the dear citizens of Kabul, who have suffered difficulties and pain as a result of food shortages due to plundering by the extremists in the last few months and who have cooperated with the state in a patriotic and friendly manner to prevent hoarding.

If the armed extremists continue to flagrantly reject Afghan traditions and the instructions of the sacred religion of Islam, in full contradiction of the national interests and righteous demands of the people, and resort to terrorism and murder, plundering and stealing property, and carrying out highway robbery thus impeding free passage, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and all patriotic Afghans not only regard it as their legal right but as their serious duty, to save the people and country from the evils of the extremists by utilizing all available means and possibilities.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the PDPA and its political allies, as well as the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, are capable of independently defending themselves, their people, and their

homeland, and with the help of almighty God and the support of their people, of giving a decisive and crushing reply to the attacks and subversive actions of the armed extremist groups.

Courageous Afghans, as the last Soviet troops return to their country, there remains no excuse for the armed opposition to continue the fratricidal war, the destruction of each others' homes, and the creation of additional graveyards.

Once again, as subjects of Afghanistan, we address all commanders of the armed groups inside the country who are our brothers, and say that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, within the framework of the policy of national reconciliation, is ready for talks and understanding with all of you compatriots. There remains no logical reason for you to shed the blood of your compatriots, or carry out attacks on military garrisons, or cut off the cities. This homeland is yours. The roads, bridges, schools, buildings, and hospitals belong to you and to all the people of Afghanistan. We all have a responsibility to safeguard this national wealth.

Let us come and treat the wounds of the 10-year long war together. Let us pray together in one mosque and end the tears and mourning of orphans and widows of the homeland. This is our policy, this is our path, and this is our objective. Success comes from God.

Najibullah Gives News Conference in Kabul

Rejects Threat of Military Coup

LD0202134289 London BBC World Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The Afghan leader, President Najibullah, has insisted that his regime is fully capable of retaining power after the Soviet Union completes the withdrawal of its forces. Speaking at a news conference in Kabul, he rejected suggestions that he might face a military coup or a power struggle.

President Najibullah said that since the Soviet troop withdrawal had begun, 7,000 people had been killed and 12,000 wounded as a result of increased guerrilla activity, but he insisted that Afghan Government forces would be able to repulse the guerrillas. He expressed confidence that his government would not be deserted by the Soviet Union after its withdrawal, and he condemned Western diplomats for pulling out of Kabul, accusing them of conducting psychological warfare.

The BBC correspondent in Kabul says that despite President Najibullah's show of confidence, the practical difficulties he faces were illustrated by a power cut which interrupted his news conference for several minutes. [passage omitted]

Says Government 'Will Survive'

BK0202145689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb 2 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah on Thursday insisted that his government will survive after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and that his party will not remove itself from the political scene.

A smiling and relaxed Mr Najibullah spent two hours with the international press dismissing any suggestion of the possible fall of the Kabul government, a military takeover or an end to his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in favour of a less political rule.

"Yes, the government will survive," he said. "The state power is in full control of the situation despite the difficulties. Our Armed Forces are more united than ever."

Mr Najibullah said his troops would never allow "extremists" to besiege Kabul and that the defense of the city would be assured.

He said that "any attempt to exclude the PDPA and its allies will be in vain," calling such suggestions "childish" and "baseless."

Aside from his show of strength, the Afghan president did not however exclude a last-minute political accord which Soviet diplomats are still seeking.

The visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevarnadze to Pakistan this weekend "is part of Soviet-Afghan efforts to find a solution to the crisis," he said.

The Afghan president was moderate in his criticism of the United States, but accused Pakistan of 200 violations of the Geneva accords. However, he said in a reference to last year's elections and the advent of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that "recent political changes in Islamabad have created a climate for progress which has made us optimistic about positive results."

He urged United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to accept his invitation to visit Kabul, which he said would "accelerate the political solution."

President Najibullah said the council planned for February 10 in Peshawar, Pakistan, by the various rebel movements to iron out their differences and approve an interim government for Afghanistan would have no legitimacy as it did not include all Afghan political forces.

He blamed the rebels for recent civilian deaths in fighting between mujahidin and Soviet-Afghan forces on the strategic Salang highay from Kabul to the Soviet border.

Kabul had ordered the evacuation of civilians from the area but rebel leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud had prevented them from leaving, President Najibullah said.

Sources in Islamabad said 600 civilians were killed in the fighting, which saw heavy bombing by Soviet aircraft, but an official Afghan source put the toll at 25.

He accused Commander Mas'ud of wanting to starve Kabul by cutting off supplies, and added, "all measures for rescuing people from hunger, including severe military action, are legitimate".

Moslem rebels fighting Mr Najibullah's government have surrounded Kabul for the past few months, shelling the city and the airport and often cutting off supplies.

Asked about the possibility of a military coup against him, Mr Najibullah said the Armed Forces were "more than ever" unified and capable of defending the country.

He talked at length about the "chaotic" state of the different mujahidin groups, saying they were plagued by "lack of decision making, lack of political programs."

The rebels, he said, "don't have a political line, no firm and stable position. Their words don't match their actions. They are unable to make decisions."

Mr Najibullah also criticized the recent departure of Western diplomats from Kabul, saying those who had left were "a small minority" and praising "the majority of diplomats who were continuing their noble missions."

Japan, Britain, France, the United States, Italy, West Germany and Austria among others have closed their embassies in Kabul citing the likelihood of instability as the Soviet troops leave.

Reaffirms Reconciliation Policy

LD0202155889 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul February 2 TASS—In keeping with the Geneva accords, all Soviet troops, still present in the territory of Afghanistan, will be returned home, it was stated here today at a news conference for local and foreign pressmen by the Afghan President Najibullah. Sending off officers and men of the friendly Soviet Union, every patriotically-minded Afghan expresses these days his heartfelt gratitude for everything they have done, he continued.

The enemies of our people and opponents of peace in Afghanistan, the head of the Afghan state went on, have constantly repeated that the Soviet Union had occupied our country and that Soviet troops would remain here forever. When it became clear that the Soviet and Afghan governments' decision on the withdrawal of Soviet troops was final, those who stood to gain politically and materially from this war went out of their way to thwart the Soviet pullout, eager as they were to preserve the main pretext for outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and for continuing the hostilities. It is perfectly clear now that our decision has torpedoed all the propaganda subterfuges and calculations of our enemies.

Najibullah pointed out that only the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan had observed the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords, had carried them out consistently. As to Pakistan, it not only failed to honour its own commitments, but has expanded the armed intervention and aggression against Afghanistan both quantitatively and qualitatively, has trampled underfoot many provisions of the Geneva accords. During the period that has elapsed after the signing of the Geneva documents, extremist formations, armed with weapons received through Pakistan, have launched 557 attacks on military targets, towns and other populated localities, have set off 403 explosive devices in crowded urban quarters.

They have carried out more than 2,300 fire assaults on different targets, launching or firing more than 200 thousand missiles, mines and shells. All this took a toll of more than seven thousand lives. More than twelve thousand people were wounded, including many civilians. Furthermore, the Pakistani Army and irregular formations have joined more and more actively in armed and subversive actions perpetrated by opposition groups. We possess irrefutable proofs of such actions, carried out in the past few months in Qandahar, Paktia, Paktika and Nangarhar provinces. Unfortunately, the United States, though seeing all this, failed to fulfil its commitments as guarantor of the Geneva accords.

The president noted that attempts of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to achieve national accord among the conflicting parties were seriously complicated by the intransigence of the Afghan extremist opposition groups, enjoying support from outside forces. We have informed world public opinion, the United Nations and our own people in great detail about all these facts.

Dwelling on the military and political situation in the country, the president expressed the conviction that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and its political allies, the country's Armed Forces were able to defend the people and the country, to rebuff resolutely, if it comes to it, the attacks and subversive actions of the opposition's extremist elements.

Nevertheless, he said, we again declare our firm resolution to continue the policy of national reconciliation. We are convinced that the prospects of peace in our country depend largely on a comprehensive political solution, based on the equal rights and interests of all forces, on the creation of a broad coalition. We urge the Government of Pakistan to reconsider its policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan. We stand for goodneighbourly relations with all the bordering states.

Sending off the limited contingent of Soviet troops, Najibullah stressed, we are aware that Soviet-Afghan friendship will remain forever a determining factor in our efforts to ensure peace and security in Afghanistan.

The president replied to numerous questions.

Mujahidin Groups Agree on Composition of Shura

BK0202143089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 2 Feb 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 2 (AFP)—Pakistan-based Afghan rebel groups have agreed on the composition of a traditional council which will name an interim government to replace the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, resistance leaders said Thursday.

The supreme council of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar has also already approved the names of the 28 ministers in the broad-based interim government, the rebel leaders said.

They said a screening committee had approved a list of the 500 members of a traditional council, known as a shura, which will be charged with endorsing the interim Islamic government at a meeting in Peshawar next week.

The interim government is designed to replace the regime of President Najibullah which the rebels claim will fall soon after the Soviet Union completes its troop withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15.

Resistance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar said at a press conference in Peshawar on Thursday that the Najibullah regime "will fall in weeks, not months, after the Soviet troop withdrawal."

Another resistance leader, moderate Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, also predicted here Thursday that the Najibullah regime will not last very long.

The interim government would be headed by a prime minister while the presidency will rotate every six months among the seven leaders of the Peshawar-based resistance alliance, rebel leaders said.

The interim government would arrange balloting for an elected shura and preparations were expected to be completed in six months. The shura would be permanent and the interim government would have to obtain a vote of confidence from the elected body, the rebel leaders in Peshawar and Islamabad said.

Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the current head of the Peshawar-based alliance and leader of the moderate Afghan Liberation Front, is tipped as the future head of state, resistance sources said.

Islamic fundamentalists in the rebel alliance, however, wanted to revive an earlier Afghan resistance government headed by Ahmed Shah, they said, but some moderate leaders have opposed Mr Ahmed Shah.

The shura will be asked to vote on whether Mr Ahmed Shah should be prime minister, the rebel leaders said, adding that its decision will be binding.

Observers said that the mujahidin had hastened the formation of an interim government in light of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposed visit to Islamabad this weekend.

Rebel leaders here believe Mr Shevardnadze, who will be the first Soviet foreign minister to visit Pakistan in more than two decades, will bring some constructive proposals.

They said if he dropped insistence on giving the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) a role in the future regime that the alliance may resume talks suspended last month on formation of a government.

Mr Gaylani said the council would include some 20 "good Moslems" associated with the current regime in Kabul, but that the PDPA would not be included because "its hands are stained with the blood of our innocent people."

The council includes 60 representatives from each of the seven Afghan resistance parties which make up the Peshawar alliance.

However differences with an eight-party Iran-based resistance alliance on the quota of 60 seats allotted to the minority Shi'ite Moslem sect have not been resolved, the sources said.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Wednesday but two meetings with Peshawar-based alliance leaders have failed to remove the impasse, sources said. Resistance leaders were still optimistic about the outcome of the ongoing negotiations, they added.

Mr Gaylani said that Shi'ites had been given 60 seats on the council on the basis of their demographic strength. He said the Shi'ite population of Afghanistan was not more than eight percent according to a 1960 census.

The Teheran-based rebels had previously demanded 120 seats on the shura.

According to resistance and Asian diplomatic sources the list also includes some people who served as ministers under exiled King Zahir Shah, including his one-time prime minister Muhammed Yusuf.

Some 600 Afghans staged a rally in Peshawar Thursday calling for the return of Zahir Shah under the auspices of the United Nations, witnesses said.

Informed sources said that Mr Mojaddedi had asked a representative of the 45-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference to be in Peshawar as the Moslem world's observer during next week's shura deliberations.

Mojadeddi To Talk With Iran-Based Mujahidin

BK0202161089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 2 (AFP)—Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, head of the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance alliance, left here for Teheran on Thursday for talks with Iran-based Afghan resistance leaders, rebel sources said.

The sudden trip comes amid a stalemate on reaching an agreement on the number of seats alloted to Iran-based Shi'ite rebel groups on a traditional council which will name an interim government in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

A resistance spokesman said Mr Mojaddedi, who heads the seven-party Peshawar-based alliance, would spend "a day or two" in Iran to "resolve the differences with our Iranian-based brothers."

Mojadeddi Blames Kabul for Embassy Pullouts

PM0202155389 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 29 Jan 89 p 6

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Mojadeddi to 'UKAZ: Communists Scare Diplomats in Kabul"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah—Afghan mujahidin alliance leader Sebghatullah Mojadeddi said that the communists are playing a role in scaring the embassies in Kabul. In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ he added that by this the communists aim to give a bad idea about the mujahidin and an indication that they may carry out sabotage acts.

Mojadeddi emphasized that peace and security will return to Kabul and the other Afghan cities after the fall of the agent government. [passage omitted]

Mojadeddi added: We will not lay down our arms until a true Islamic government is established.

On the possibility of former Afghan King Zahir Shah's return to Afghanistan, Mojadeddi said that there is no dispute over that issue. If the Afghan people agree to his return, there will be no objection to his returning as a symbol of power. [passage omitted]

With regard to the trenches surrounding Kabul to protect the Kabul regime, Mojadeddi said: This will not help the Kabul regime much. If the Soviets withdraw, we are certain that the agent government will be unable to stabilize for long in Kabul. They must step down or flee from Afghanistan and leave it to the Afghans. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Claims Salang Convoys Carry Arms

PM0302105389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Feb 89 pp 1-2

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Burhanuddin Rabbani to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Shura Council Will Convene in Islamabad As Scheduled"]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Afghan jihad leaders have decided to go ahead with convening the expanded shura in Islamabad as scheduled on 10 February, even if an agreement with the Iran-based Shi'ite Afghan parties is not reached. This was confirmed by Islamic Society leader Burhanuddin Rabbani in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at his home yesterday morning. He described the eight Shi'ite parties' request for one-third of the council seats as "illogical and unacceptable."

He emphasized that the parties refuse to set a certain proportion aside for the Shi'ites as an independent sect. He said: This is something which we have never experienced in Afghanistan, and this is not the right time to stir up sectarian or racial matters.

Rabbani spoke about the Kabul government's participation in the council, emphasizing all the parties' rejection of the communists' participation. He also said that 20 Muslims from the Kabul area will take part in the council. They will probably include some of those who served in the government in the past, provided that they are not affiliated to the "Marxist" People's Party.

Rabbani also talked about the mujahidin plan for opening up Kabul. He said that for the time being they will confine their siege to the capital and large cities, in the hope that the Army will hand them over to the mujahidin. But he stressed that military operations will continue against military garrisons and barracks. [passage omitted]

Rabbani emphasized that the mujahidin still seek to assume power peacefully in order to spare Afghan blood, namely via direct negotiations with the Soviets. He said: The line was not cut completely with the Soviets after the negotiations, but there is little hope that they will offer anything acceptable to the mujahidin. He ruled out a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his visit to Islamabad the day after tomorrow. Nevertheless, he said that surprises are in the cards, especially if Shevardnaze brings a reasonable solution acceptable to the mujahidin.

Rabbani expressed his alarm at recent Soviet escalation in the northern region. He said: The brutal Soviet shelling of Shater and Salang villages, which has wiped entire villages off the map, is not a good omen. The mujahidin obstructed the convoys passing through Salang to Kabul only after they discovered that some of them were carrying not food, as the Soviets had claimed, but arms headed for the agent regime.

On the entry into Kabul he said: If we fail to gain entry to Kabul through negotiations, we will continue to besiege it until the Army surrenders, in order to spare blood. If that is not achieved, then we will enter by force according to a set plan. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Combat Operations 1-2 Feb

LD0202210789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] According to reliable Armed Forces sources in the last 24 hours, security was enforced in most provinces of the country and the transport of supplies is continuing via the main supply and transport highways. Except in some limited regions, where the armed activities of the extremists groups continued and faced the reciprocal blows of the units and companies of our heroic and brave Armed Forces, no incidents of nationwide importance have taken place. The country's security details have been reported as follows:

Parvan: No active extremist operations were observed. Eight extremists were killed in a mopping up operation in the (Manarak) region. A [word indistinct] machine gun and a system for charging rockets were seized.

The Salang highway has been opened to traffic, and state and private vehicles are traveling along it. Food convoys have arrived in Kabul.

Nangarhar: The warmongering extremists fired heavy weapons at security posts and residential areas in Chakab, Deh Bala, (Rodad) and Kameh bridge. Security forces in these regions returned their fire. Two security forces members were wounded in heavy weapons fire. According to another report, the extremists resorted to firing heavy weapons in Sarowbi region. However, the units and companies stationed there foiled their activities with a reciprocal attack.

Kabul highway: The Kabul-Jalalabad road is open to traffic. State and private vehicles are traveling along it normally.

Paktia: The extremists fired heavy weapons at security posts and residential areas of Khowst, Gardeyz, Tangay, Jaji Meydan, and [word indistinct], to which the Armed Forces reciprocated.

Ghazni: A member of the Armed Forces was martyred and 6 others, including 2 civilians, were wounded in heavy enemy weapons fire at Ghazni city.

Qandahar: In Armed Forces mopping up operations in the Mohmand region, 33 extremists were killed. Three [word indistinct], 13 fortified trenches, and 3 mortars were destroyed. Also, 74 mortar shells, 52 anti-personnel mines, and 55 anti-vehicle mines were seized.

According to another report, 2 Armed Forces personnel were wounded when extremists fired heavy weapons at a number of security posts and residential areas near Qandahar city. The extremists have fired heavy weapons in some areas of this province before without causing any loss of life.

The BIA adds that, with a deep feeling of patriotism and in order to fulfill their sacred duty toward the country, group after group of brave youths are joining the ranks of the country's Armed Forces. After 814 youths who were qualified for the sacred military service registered voluntarily at the military commissariats, they were sent to Armed Forces units and companies.

TANJUG Outlines 'Metamorphosis' of PDPA

LD0202130789 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1052 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 2 (TANJUG)—Dr. Najibullah's ruling National Democratic Party of Afghanistan (NDPA) recently indicated it would undergo a metamorphosis in order to be accepted by the mujahidin.

Since the mujahidin are refusing to negotiate with the NDPA at all costs, the question arises whether a ruthless war of attrition is the country's only future.

The Kabul leadership's unofficial assessments of developments also give the "option" that the Afghan Army carries out a putsch against the present regime. According to that "screenplay", the military regime would soon call general elections, at which all mujahidin parties and the "reformed" NDPA could take part.

The third version, believed in only by a small number of optimists in Afghanistan, is a compromise solution. They base their belief on the mujahidin's announced readiness to include certain "good Muslims" in their "government" and NDPA's indications that it will change its "revolutionary character" after February 15, when the departure of Soviet troops is completed and the Afghans are left to reconcile their differences by themselves.

A special party commission in Kabul is already working on a proposal on the reforms of the NDPA, it has been unofficially learned.

Even Dr Najibullah several times reiterated his readiness to step down if that is necessary for the opening of a dialogue with the mujahidin.

The "new" Afghan party is to be "liberal, nationalist and democratic", and the changed program will not once mention "socialism and Leninism", as indicated.

It is certain that the mujahidin fundamentalists will not accept negotations with the Kabul party, no matter what it calls itself and how profound the changes it introduces in its program are. There is hope, however, that some

commanders from the battlefields in the country's interior and the "moderate" mujahidin organizations accept negotiations with the Kabul party when it changes its name and when Dr Najibullah, who has become a symbol of all the mujahidin are fighting against, no longer heads it.

UN Sent 204th Memo on Geneva Accords Violations

LD0302064389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The coordination office of the Foreign Ministry delivered the 204th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords.

The memorandum conveys accurate information on 13 cases of flagrant violations by Pakistan from the Article 2, Document 1, of the Geneva accords. It has been requested that the delegation assess the violations mentioned in this memorandum in accordance with Article 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords.

UN Human Rights Official Arrives, Holds Talks

LD0202221289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Professor Flex Armacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commision, arrived this morning in Kabul in line with his previous trips to the Republic of Afghanistan. The acting head of the UN department and the deputy head of protocol of the Foreign Ministry welcomed him at Kabul International Airport.

According to another report, this afternoon Mr 'Abdul Ghafar, minister of returnees affairs, met with Prof Flex Armacora. Also today, Soraya, secretary general of the Afghan red cresent, and Justice Minister Bashir Baghlani met in their offices separately with the special UN rapporteur. They exchanged views and discussed topics of mutual interest.

Bangladesh

Embassy Staff Asked To Return From Kabul

BK0202060089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0535 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 2 (AFP)—Bangladesh Government has decided to ask its embassy staff in Kabul to return home for security reasons, official sources here said Thursday.

There are some 10 to 12 Bangladeshis including a diplomat based in the Bangladesh Embassy in Kabul. They have been asked to take the first available flights from Kabul, the sources said.

A Foreign Ministry official said the decision was taken in view of the "existing situation" in Kabul. He said Bangladesh would retain its embassy and the personnel would return to Kabul as soon as the situation permitted.

Last month Bangladesh ordered all dependents and family members of the embassy staff to return home.

Several Western countries, including the United States, have already pulled their embassy staff out of Kabul, citing security problems and food shortages as the February 15 deadline for the completion of a Soviet troop withdrawal approaches.

Envoy Concerned Over Illegal Migration to India

BK0202050089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The outgoing Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr I.S. Chadha, has expressed serious concern over the continued influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh to India. He said the influx has gone very high recently because of the feeling of insecurity among minorities following the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution making Islam the state religion. Besides this, the economic compulsions also add to the influx, he said.

Addressing a press conference in Dhaka yesterday at the end of his 3-year term, Mr Chadha said steps should be taken immediately to check this trend.

Remarks Denied

BK0302020989 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] The government has categorically denied the Indian high commissioner's allegation that minorities are leaving Bangladesh for India. Sharply reacting to the allegation, a senior government official in Dhaka said there has been no exodus of the minorities at all from Bangladesh into the neighboring country.

He also refuted the outgoing Indian high commissioner's remarks that minorities in large numbers were leaving for India following adoption of Islam as state religion and arrests in connection with the so-called Swadhin Bangabhumi Movement. The official stated that there has been no incident of communal disturbance or religious intolerance in the country. On the contrary, an atmosphere of peace and communal harmony is prevailing in Bangladesh.

Ershad To Make 5-Day Official Visit to UK

BK0202013389 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] President Ershad goes to London on the 14th of this month on a 5-day official visit to the United Kingdom. The visit takes place at the invitation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The president will be accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad.

During the visit, President Ershad will have wide-ranging talks with the British prime minister covering bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. Official sources said the traditional and close relations between Bangladesh and Britain have been developing in an excellent climate. President Ershad's visit to Britain will not only symbolize the existing closeness between the two countries but will also go a long way toward further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The president will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Dr M.A. Matin, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and other senior officials.

Ershad Addresses Parliament on Opposition, Floods

BK0102161689 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The winter session of Parliament began in Dhaka this morning. In his inaugural address, President Ershad has called for mutual cooperation, tolerance, and respect for each other's views to further promote and nourish democratic values in society. He invited all political parties and groups to come forward to help promote and accelerate the process of democratization in the country.

The president called for upholding high democratic values in social, political, economic, cultural, and other sectors of national life. The president said our philosophy is one, and this is unshakeable faith and confidence in Allah, national development, welfare of mankind, no compromise on national interests, expansion of industries, and modern outlook on all matters. If this philosophy is adopted as a most essential element in national politics, negative politics will end for all times to come and mark the beginning of production-oriented realistic politics for social progress and welfare of the people.

President Ershad informed the house of the steps taken by his government during the last few years to bring about an all-round welfare of the people. In this respect he referred to the measures taken to minimize the sufferings of the people caused by last year's unprecedented floods and severe cyclonic storm. From the suffering of the people emerged a grand unity which is very vital and invaluable in national life. [passage omitted]

President Ershad in this connection [assistance for people in flood areas] recalled with gratitude the help and assistance received from home and abroad to overcome the situation created by natural calamities. He also spoke of his personal initiatives to solve the flood problem through regional cooperation. Various international organizations and agencies, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IMF and friendly countries have come forward to help Bangladesh achieve a permanent solution to flood problem.

The president said international response to floods in Bangladesh has made it clear that it is no longer the problem of Bangladesh alone, but the environmental problem of the whole world. The international community will have to play its role in resolving this problem.

The president said in order to reach the fruits of independence to common man, it is vitally necessary to create jobs for the educated and uneducated youths. In a country like Bangladesh where land is so scarce, it is not possible to employ such a vast manpower in the agriculture sector. What is necessary is rapid industrialization. It is with this end in view the National Investment Board has been set up to help accelerate the pace of industrialization in the country.

India

Pakistani Nuclear Development Causes 'Concern'

BK0302090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Speaking at a youth rally [in Bombay], the prime minister expressed deep concern over the recent nuclear development in Pakistan. Mr Gandhi said reports from Pakistan indicate that the country has obtained tritium, which increases the power of nuclear weapons five-fold or more. Mr Gandhi stated that under these circumstances we cannot sit quiet and watch the situation. We will take the necessary steps and not allow the security of our country to be endangered. Mr Gandhi said his recent visit to Pakistan has helped to create goodwill and cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the Afghanistan issue, Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that peace will be restored in that country. The Soviet troops will withdraw very soon and Afghanistan will be a nonaligned country.

On Sri Lanka, the prime minister said almost all issues in the island nation have now been resolved.

He congratulated the Indian Army for the successful operation in Maldives recently.

Meetings Between Gandhi, Bhutto Assessed

BK0202140789 Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jan 89 p 4

[Article by Rakesh Gupta: "Indo-Pak Ties After Islamabad Meet"]

[Text] The recent bilateral talks between Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto are significant. They are so because after the Simla summit, prime ministers of the two countries have met. In terms of tendencies of changing style and form of international relations, bilateralism is the order of the day. Since both the prime ministers are also engaged in bilateralism vis-a-vis China, the meeting between the two comes in the midst of this larger extra regional factor. Mr Gandhi

has returned from China and Ms Bhutto is going to China. The meeting of the two prime ministers is significant because there is now a possibility of a cooperative relationship to develop. This external development may help both countries in settling domestic cohesion in their respective societies. Will Pakistan-China relationship not be aimed against India? Can this come about?

Domestic cohesion has to transcend merely the quest for military strength, structures and postures, state security apparatuses, using violence against one another as also against local, sporadic, endemic or protracted civil violent strife. The agreements that have been signed between the two countries recognise the limited area of cooperation. This should not cause us euphoria. It does not give us a guarantee against the danger of nuclear arms race and thus may not prevent the nuclear doves to chant the mantra of nuclear deterrence.

If anything, the ruling circles, particularly the civilian ones in both the countries, must recognise that Indo-Pak wars have made a mockery of even conventional deterrence. This is true of the experience of most of the third world countries. So, if even conventional deterrence has met its periodic burial in the bangs of bilateral wars, then it is time that the two countries seriously think about conventional defensive postures and force structures. Ms Benazir Bhutto's announcement of reduction of defence budget is like nibbling at the problem of Indo-Pakistan wars. The wars have been caused owing to perceived military clout vis-a-vis the other. What is more significant is that Rajiv Gandhi has accepted her view that Pakistan is not behind terrorism in Punjab.

That is an intractable problem from the perspective of defensive posture as also Indo-Pak relations. The latter is not possible till the border regions are disturbed. No meaningful cooperation even in the limited areas may remain valid. So, if India and Pakistan endeavour to stop the use of terrorism, the settling of issues of domestic conflict can come about. It would create political conditions for defensive postures in two ways. First, the border regions will have normalcy and tranquillity if the development strategy helps in the satisfaction of economic and political demands within the system. Once India can restore a measure of order and cohesion then the danger of the local population helping a possible inroad for whatever reasons will not be there.

This will create conditions for civil non-cooperation as part of our defensive strategy i.e. we would be strong to defend ourselves with means other than military strength. This would have impact both on Pakistan and India. Civilian rule will find strength in Pakistan. India will have time to pay attention to the Punjab village which has been again on fire. In this sense security and rural cohesion can be combined for creating conditions of cooperation.

For a country like India it is quite right to accept state terrorism as an evil to be fought. This was raised by Ms Benazir Bhutto during her intervention in the SAARC summit. It is now well known that both in the west and north-east of India terrorism is not just due to internal reasons. It is owing to external abetting also. Since Mr Gandhi has been assured both by Pakistani and Chinese leaderships of the latter's non-involvement, it is possible for India to both initiate a disarmament initiative and a programme that can translate economic performance into satisfaction of political wants that are within the system. So, mend India's fences.

Both aspects have their origin in the Rajiv Gandhi's political profile at the international and the national levels. At his UN speech the Indian Prime Minister has talked about defence oriented world. His compromises with Longowal Akali Dal, AASU [All Assam Students Union] and Mr Laldenga have shown that it is possible to pursue compromise to achieve domestic cohesion.

The bilateral issue between India and Pakistan can be tackled at both the levels. Pakistan has alleged India of asymmetries in conventional forces which has been its alibi for greater US sponsored sophistication of its armed forces. This emerges from a small nation's fear of big neighbour. The Western literature has described it South Asia's Poland or Finland. So, it suffers from the fear psychosis. What steps can be taken to remove this. The agreement on not to attack nuclear installation is a good confidence building measure as far as it goes, though it does not do so very far.

Both countries need to draw up measures in the conventional areas. It is generally stated that in terms of manpower in military, India has a preponderance. There is need to explain to Pakistan the ratios of military manpower in terms of size of land, population and the need of military assistance in civilian work of meeting situations of floods, and accidents let alone its symbolic use in communal or caste riots. It is therefore necessary to relate the problem of manpower with questions of providing infrastructural facilities during emergencies such as floods and violence. If this is brought into the argument it may cut some ice though a little perhaps.

It is also necessary to impress upon Pakistan that the strategic depth of India from the point of view of a threat from PRC's hardware presence in Tibet is really not an advantage. Hence recognition of that reality only could make Pakistan see that a Pakistan-China strategic understanding would prevent a possibility of India and Pakistan adopting a defensive posture.

Usually, western scholars have talked of asymmetry between India and Pakistan in terms of India having 38 divisions and Pakistan having 23 divisions. And yet the 5.3 lead of India, according to an expert in the west, "is not striking". In contrast, "Pakistan has acquired some US and other western equipment that will overcome the

current deficiencies" i.e. Stingers and SAMs [surface-to-air missiles]. Therefore what Pakistan is doing is comparable to what the NATO does vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. Pakistan falls back on the US. It acquires quality hardware to offset quantitative asymmetry.

The same expert maintains Indian tanks are vulnerable to modern anti-tank weapons. He further adds "It would be very difficult...for the Indians to actually employ their numerical advantage against Pakistan if Pakistan continues to get substantial US aid, does not fall far behind India, and garrisons most of its forces close to the Indian border".

Now that the Soviet forces are being withdrawn from Afghanistan, does Pakistan need to increase its fire power as much as it has? Does it need all its garrisons near the Indian border? Can there be some understanding on deemployment of such garrisons as a confidence building measure at least in some areas on both sides. There is hardly any region in Pakistani side of the border with India that has problems as India has in Punjab. Thus it should be possible for India and Pakistan in the intermediate future to have a demilitarised zone on both sides of the border.

This would mean that some areas on the long Indo-Pakistan borders could be demilitarised so as to build confidence while simultaneously looking at the problem of Kashmir in accordance with Simla spirit which emphasizes on bilateralism.

Both countries need to commute combat capabilities and not play a mere number game. In this it would be necessary to include not only fire power but also human elements like reserves, training, combat experience. If this is commuted, and, if it is combined with determination of combat capabilities on the basis of qualitative arms balance, then the bleakness of the asymmetry may be lightened. It may then be possible to have moratoriums on acquisitions, productions and procurements again as confidece building measure. Balanced reductions need not be the first steps.

It is also true that such steps would go a long way in building confidence than just announcements of cuts, which have a role to play in package. This package needs to be linked to regional cooperation, bilateral confidence building measures and domestic cohesion before reductions actually are announced and implemented.

Finally, both India and Pakistan can and need to develop an autonomous framework for domestic cohesion that may strengthen the domestic legitimation process. If violence, hegemony, and strife are the symptoms of domestic conflict, then both countries can help each other in terms of developing areas of cooperation that would not stoke the fires of domestic riots. Perhaps this is too fantastic and perhaps even angels may fear to tread this ground. Both countries have this problem and mistrust each other. And yet, since both Ms Bhutto and Mr Rajiv Gandhi are leaders of a post independence generation, they may find avenues for this. It may mean recognition of each other in a way that fear of other's aggressive intentions goes.

The US and China factor in South Asia must never be ignored and so a long term, extra regional military and political aspect of national security of India and national security of Pakistan is necessary. How long shall the two be played against one another either for US or China's geo-strategic calculations? It is possible that the US may increasingly induce China to help Pakistan and establish a trangular relationship which may cause delays in the Indo-Pakistan bilateral process.

Bush Urged To Take 'Kinder, Gentle Look at India'
BK0102190389 Delhi PATRIOT in English
23 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "'Kinder' to Whom?"]

[Text] On assuming the US presidency, Mr George Herbert Walker Bush pledged "to make kinder the face of the nation, gentler the face of the world". Implicitly thus, Mr Bush has admitted that Uncle Sam's growing claws need to be withdrawn slightly. Will the new Administration desist from flexing its muscles against weak regimes? The answer will have to wait till such time as new Bush emerges on the world horizon. The 64-year-old Mr Bush has also pledged to "continue our new closeness with the Soviet Union—consistent with both our security and with progress". It is, thus, evident that the US-Soviet relations will continue to occupy the centre of the stage on the new Administration's agenda.

Mr Bush's perceptions of a transformation in East-West relations may not be so different from the Reagan presidency's as he remained closely associated with his predecessor's policies, being a "crown prince" during the last eight years. And yet some changes can be expected in the style, if not so much in the thrust, of the US foreign policy conduct. Mr Bush is likely to be less flamboyant, less dramatic but more pragmatic and businesslike. As he said recently, "there is enough drama in the world already" and probably "we need a lot less of razzle-dazzle". In fact Mr Bush has already hinted that he will not be hurried into strategic arms talks. In all likelihood, he will work more closely with other NATO allies to evolve a joint Western response to Mr Gorbachev's plan for a unilateral cut in troops and tanks.

However, Mr Bush will be facing his real challenge on the domestic economic front. He inherits an economy which is in the mature stages of expansion, a worrying upturn in inflation and a foreign debt which on present policies is steaming towards a trillion US dollars. Mr Reagan survived six years without recession. Under Mr Bush, recession is a certainty. The dilemma is that, the longer he staves off recession, the lesser will be his popularity which may cost him the presidency in 1992. Other neglected issues like the budget and trade deficits could

come to a head soon. No less daunting will be his task on the social fronts. Mr Bush apparently does not have any blueprint for dealing with the problems of the "poor, forgotten, out of work and out of hope".

Mr Bush has also made a strong plea for reviving the spirit of bipartisanship. The deep partisan bitterness of the Reagan era still lingers in the Congress. With the newly fortified Democratic majority in both Houses of Congress, Mr Bush's policies—both domestic and foreign—may not have a smooth sailing. In fact, recently one of the Democratic Senators warned that, "if Mr Bush wants confrontation, like he did in the campaign, he will get more than he bargained for". The problem is clearly on Mr Bush's mind. Another problem emerges out of Mr Bush's own persona—he has, at different times, been all things to all Republicans.

He is a conservative at heart, insist some Right-wingers who feel that he may even deliver more than did Mr Reagan. Others believe Mr Bush is a Republican of the older, more pragmatic school and hence there may be no place in his Administration for ideological buccaneers. The Right wing of Republicans would very much want him to fight for intensified aid to rebel forces in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Angola. But can Mr Bush's writ run in the Democrat-dominated Congress?

Relations with India may not be exactly high on Mr Bush's agenda. Pakistan will continue to occupy a key position in the new Adminsitration's South Asia policy for obvious reasons. Last October, Mr Bush admitted that the Indo-US ties were no longer "characterised by strong swings from warmth to coolness" and had improved substantially from the "low level" of 1980. While the prospect in this regard will depend on the scenario that may emerge in the subcontinent, it is hard to imagine that Mr Bush will take a kinder, gentle look at India.

U.S. Congressman's Visit Creates 'Disquiet'

BK3101153389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Must Solarz Mediate?"]

[Text] Chairman of the US Congress Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs Stephen J Solarz's recent visit to Bangladesh, Pakistan and India may be intended as a goodwill mission to the South Asian region. But, it cannot but create some disquiet in the region that he is trying to mediate, even if not meddle, in the domestic affairs of the countries of South Asia. As some reports suggest, Mr Solarz's extensive talks with the Bangladesh President and Opposition leaders may pave the way for an understanding which could enable Ms Hasina Wajed to join the national mainstream. In fact, at the behest of Mr Solarz, President H.M. Ershad is understood to have agreed to hold free and fair elections and accept Ms Wajed as future Prime Minister if her party emerges victorious.

Mr Solarz also told the Press in New Delhi that he was quite impressed by the three agreements signed between India and Pakistan and found both Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto, with whom he had talks, positive in their approach to normalisation of relations. Mr Solarz is, no doubt, considered in this country as someone who has not associated himself with Washington's blatantly anti-India tirade. There is also a considerable amount of goodwill for the US Congressman in this country. And yet the impression that Mr Solarz's visit has created is that he is seeking to play a major role in reshaping India's relations with Pakistan which is inconsistent with the Indian position that this country does not approve of any external mediation in its bilateral matters. This applies equally to New Delhi's friends.

It is also not clear what exactly Mr Solarz's objectives were in visiting Punjab and holding discussions with SGPC leader Manjit Singh Calcutta and Punjab Governor S.S. Ray. Of course, Mr Solarz took pains to say that he had not gone to Punjab "as a one-man court of inquiry" nor as a "foreign hand to exacerbate the problem" but only to "lend a helping hand". Fine, but do not his pronouncements on Punjab virtually amount to giving a certificate to this country? Does Mr Solarz need to tell the Indian Government that a solution to the Punjab tangle lay within rather than outside and that the solution could be found within the present consitutional framework of the country?

One only hopes that, in allowing Mr Solarz to visit Punjab, the Government is merely reciprocating his goodwill for this country. In any event, it should not become a precedent for allowing foreign diplomats and leaders to seek to mediate either in this country's internal affairs or in New Delhi's search for repairing its relations with the neighbouring countries.

Washington is lately taking an increasingly keen interest in South Asia. There have also been efforts to project India as a regional power. Recently THE NEW YORK TIMES published an intriguing report about "a growing perception" that both the Soviet and Western power blocs had turned the "entire Indian region over to India". The idea, on the face of it, is preposterous. If India has acquired a position of strength in the region as also in the UN and NAM [Nonaligned Movement] forums, it is thanks to this country's principled foreign policy of nonalignment which is based on non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and respect for national sovereignty.

Needless to add, peace has eluded this region largely as a result of Washington's search for pliant regimes in the area. If Uncle Sam keeps his hands off, there is no reason why New Delhi and Islamabad cannot overcome the suspicions and bitterness of the past and establish a new era of mutual trust and friendliness.

Cooperation Protocols Signed With Soviet Union

BK0302043989 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] India and the USSR have agreed to collaborate in a number of high technology areas. The agreement was reached during the week-long deliberations of the Indo-Soviet working group on machine building and production cooperation in New Delhi. At the end of the deliberations today, two separate protocols were signed.

One of the protocols was signed by the secretary of public enterprises, Mr G.N. Mehra, on behalf of India, while the deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, Mr G.D. Stroganov, signed on behalf of his country. Under this protocol, the two sides have emphasized the joint production of machinery items between Indian manufacturers—both private and public—and Soviet enterprises.

The second protocol was signed by Mr A. Prasad on behalf of India, while the head of the department of the State Planning Commission, Mr Y.K. Dyakonov, signed for the Soviet Union. The protocol covers production cooperation in a variety of equipment and machinery for use in various sectors like coal, steel, and power.

Reconsideration of Israeli Policy Urged

BK0102100289 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Jan 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Time For Review"]

[Text] Establishment of full-fledged diplomatic relations between India and Israel is on the agenda. Apparently, there have recently been Israeli feelers for such a step. It would be wrong to brush them aside by the usual reflex, reluctance to think again. India's policy towards Israel has so far been conditioned by the staunch Indian support for the Palestinian cause. And this support was justified by the intrinsic merit of the Palestinians' rights. Palestinians were uprooted from their own lands to facilitate the creation of Israel. This was a gross injustice to them and it can be undone only by recognising their rights to independence.

The entire issue became highly complicated because West Asia became one of the arenas of superpower conflict. But the situation has changed vastly. The pace of US-Soviet detente is quickening. The US has shed its hostile attitude to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and is currently engaged in a formal dialogue with it. The Arab states are no longer a monolithic bloc even on this issue. President Al-Sadat, taking courage and, as it turned out, his life in his hands, had reached out and signed the Camp David agreement with Israel. He was, of course, opposed by other Arab states. But so far have things changed that even Mr Yasir 'Arafat is now making out that he and the PLO recognise the right of Israel to exist.

Unlike the Arab states, India recognises the existence of the state of Israel. But it has had only limited consular ties with that country. We have on occasion been more vociferous in propagating what we have taken to be the Arab line than many of the Arab states themselves. And in doing so we have been impelled only in part by principle. The principal reasons have been a presumption that such espousal will get us Arab support—it hasn't—and sheer inertia. There has also been the apprehension that any re-examination will be used by some fundamentalists to fan fear among Muslims here. Listing the "reasons" is sufficient to show how illegitimate, and how myopic they are. It is time, therefore, that the country debated the wisdom of persisting with the existing policy.

Achievements of Gandhi's China Trip Reviewed

BK0102090589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jan 89 p 4

[Article by Rakesh Gupta: "India-China Summit—Accent on Bilateralism"]

[Text] Most of the writings on Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China characterise it as significant or the most significant event of the year since he has done what his grandfather did 34 years ago. The context of domestic elections have also been commented upon as having a beneficial or inhibiting effect on Mr Gandhi's prospects on the solution of the border problem.

The difficulty of solving the border problem in the summit is every commentator's measure of maturity. It recognises the obstacles in settling the lands that have been at one stage described by Pt [Pandit] Nehru as an area where even grass does not grow. None of these comments have helped a reader to understand the perspectives of Indo-Chinese relations viewed either as foreign policy issue or as an extension of issues of domestic concerns of India. This is not to deny that peace that normalisation brings begets conditions for development.

At another level recent writings have also shown how the Deng revolution has created conditions for more pragmatic views of relations and also of how Mr Gandhi's China visit is prompted by the Gorbachev promptings. As a rebuttal one also comes across the comment that the visit is a natural result of the efforts made during the Janata regime and the visit of the then foreign minister. Those who have not accepted this standpoint refer to the efforts that Mrs Gandhi began in the early 1970s at the time when the Soviet Union had not prompted India to do so. Also, there was no domestic compulsion to do so since those were the days of Bangladesh crisis and peaceful nuclear explosion that India had conducted to the chagrin of foreign powers including China. A question still needs to be posed. Is the Rajiv visit to be viewed as an exercise of changing the atmospherics in the international climate without reference to domestic needs?

One basic point needs to be noted. Mr Deng, Mr Gorbachev and Mr Gandhi represent, in their own countries as also for the outsiders, a quest for transition to a higher level of social order i.e. modernisation in production process for greater strengths in economy and polity in which the individual initiative has a greater scope to make an impact. The latter aspect is more pronounced in Mr Deng's attack on egalitarianism and Mr Gorbachev's rejection of the policy that allowed for a gap between performance and wages. Very few comments have been made in relation to the transitional strategies of India and China. The ones that have been made have been less favourable for India since we seem to have not thought of having organisational forms to channelise our elephant size resources and man-power into computer energy.

At a more abstract level the question being asked is if each of the three leaders is pursuing capitalist development in different degrees then India has to deal with its own interest aggregation and articulation in domestic terms and in terms of bilateral issues emerging from such transition with countries like China. One cannot help but note the fact that India's core interest in science and technological base as an input into foreign policy initiatives is at least not significant enough to have drawn attention from commentators. Perhaps it is too early even to talk of collaboration in arms control disarmament, let alone basics of cooperation.

It is necessary to pay attention to this aspect since the scientific and technological change will help in moulding social cohesion and consciousness on the one hand and purely military hardware on the other. Both have a bearing on regional stability and bilateral relations between India and China. The area of cooperation in the latter has to be creatively evolved. No model of bilateral relations exists. The US-Chinese trade and strategic relationship caused an influence on China's foreign policy orientation in Asia. It can hardly serve as a guide for Indo-Chinese relations. The Soviet-Chinese relations have developed in terms of trade and political issues of foreign policy like the anti-nuclear movement in Asia-Pacific.

The Indo-Chinese relations cannot follow this model too since there are differences in the security perception with nuclear asymmetries that is advantageous to China, whose modernisation drive has given it a new military punch. The Chinese are not prepared to discuss the nuclear issue with India or even the issue of its help to Pakistan in the matter. In fact the Chinese leaders have quite superfluously assured the Pakistanis that Sino-Indian relations are not at the cost of the Pakistanis. Prime Minister Gandhi's remark that he will discuss the nuclear issue with Pakistan shows this dark area in Indo-Chinese relations.

The summit is a success since it indicates the possible developments in the next three to five years. It is a success since a framework for negotiating the border dispute has been set up and upgraded. Two, the reasonable time span is indicated for the settlement. Three, that the Indians have been able to get this since the Chinese recognise the possibility of low intensity conflicts in the future. They may not do so in the next few years if one goes by the time span that is given to the evolution of the military doctrine.

The agreements on culture, science and technology and civil aviation would lead to greater contact among the technical personnel, cultural troupes and tourists. Whether this would lead to a greater cooperation in respective transistional strategies is a matter of conjecture. Across the board cooperation does not seem to be on the cards, though this may be possible in some areas.

The India-China cooperation in the nuclear field for peaceful purposes is not on the cards let alone any discussion on the nuclear arms control. The US-China-Japan constellation on the INF is a fact. The US-China-Pakistan cooperation is a fact. The US has opted for Afghan priority rather than nonproliferation in South Asia. A new proposal for having greater South Asian non-nuclear zone involving US, withdrawal from Diego Garcia, China withdrawal from Tibet, Pakistan and India is impractical since it ignores the Soviet Union. It is also unconvincing since China may not remove its IRBMs [intermediate-range ballistic missiles] from Tibet. The US will not give up its Diego Garcia installations. Thus, the nuclear stalemate will continue in the region. Indian sensibilities on the issue will remain untouched in the foreseeable future.

Yet, the fillip that bilateralism is getting in the latter half of the 1980s has reached a new stage with India-China meeting. Whether this bilateralism will have any multilateral understanding is an open question. It is interesting to note that both India and China would have greater possibility of dealing with their neighbour afresh.

Natwar Singh Returns From Southeast Asia

BK0202130589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has said that Indonesia and Thailand want India to play a leading role in solving the Kampuchean problem. Mr Natwar Singh returned to New Delhi this morning after a visit to Jakarta and Bangkok. He said the two leading members of the Association of Southeast Nations—ASEAN—appreciated India's current efforts to resolve the Kampuchean issue.

Mr Natwar Singh said that the Thai prime minister, who has been invited by Mr Gandhi to visit India, will be coming next month.

Heroin Seized in Bundles for Export to Nigeria

BK0302032189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, police have seized heroin valued at 20 crore rupees from the premises of a hosiery goods exporting company in Madras. It was found in polythene bags kept among the bundles for export to Nigeria.

Andhra Pradesh Minister Views Naxalite Activity

BK0202161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh home minister, Mr Kala Venkata Rao, said yesterday's killing of seven policemen by Naxalites in Adilabad District was part of a plan to demoralize the police. He told newsmen in Hyderabad today after a visit to Adilabad that about 30 Naxalites were involved in yesterday's attack. He asserted that the state government is determined to curb extremist activities by strengthening the police force.

Meanwhile, a home ministry spokesman in New Delhi said that the center is in constant touch with the Andhra Pradesh government and called for a report on the incident.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0302112889 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 3 Feb 89

["Majlis speaker launches "Decade of Reconstruction"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday named the second decade of the Islamic revolution "the decade of construction and economic independence" and said the country had all the potential needed to step in that direction.

"The road to the salvation of the country, the fundamental strengthening of the revolution and achievement of real independence is to have 'more production for economic independence' as our slogan in the 2nd decade of the revolution," he said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani described the first decade since the Islamic revolution as the "decade of consolidation" and stressed that Iran should now move on to a new phase.

But Rafsanjani, who is the Armed Forces acting commander in chief reminded his audiance at Tehran's Friday prayers of the war with Iraq which stopped last August but its resumption was "still a possibility".

"If the war stayed with us, we will not be able to calculate (what will happen)" he said. On the other hand Iraq had learned a bitter lesson from the war and Iran too was not seeking war. There were still factories that needed imported raw materials and machinery to resume operation and Iran was still partly dependent on imports to feed the people, Rafsanjani said of the current state of the economy.

But conditions and resources were sufficient to make it "totally possible" to reach economic independence, he added.

First, Iraq could not restart the war "so easily," second, the post-revolution state administration had gained experience, third, the universities had expanded, fourth, people more than ever appreciated independence and freedom, and fifth, banks and other monetary sources were ready to help economic development.

"God willing, we hope to go through the period of reconstruction with patience, understanding of where we are, greater efforts, cooperations, friendship, and unity," the speaker said.

But addressing tens of thousands of Iranian worshippers and large numbers of front row foreign guests attending ceremonies on the tenth anniversary of the revolution, he said the last ten years were still more fruitful than one would expect in view of the obstacles.

He underlined Iran's political independence since the revolution and said no country particularly in the Third World was free of foreign domination as much as Iran.

In addition in terms of development people had been given more facilities and services in some areas than during the shah's regime and due to the war and international sanctions Iran was producing many weapons including missiles.

After 1979 "a serious move towards development began but if there was no war, no economic sanctions and the country's strength was not caught up in them obviously more steps would have been taken," he said.

In last week's Friday prayers, President 'Ali Khamene'i also noted that the nearly eight-year war "robbed the best years" of the revolution but that the Islamic Republic was still committed to its original principles of aimed [as received] at building a model state.

Velayati Returns From 'Useful' Talks in Pakistan

NC0302065789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, who had gone to Pakistan for talks with high-ranking Pakistani officials on the further expansion of the two countries' ties and on Afghanistan's problems, returned to Tehran this morning.

IRNA reports that he described these talks as extremely useful. In a part of his remarks he stated: During the trip to Pakistan we achieved an extremely favorable outcome as far as cooperation between Pakistan and Iran for the future reconstruction of Afghanistan and the advancement of the future government's political affairs are concerned.

The report indicates that Mr Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the seven-party alliance of the Afghan mujhidin based in Pakistan, also headed a delegation to Tehran for talks with the heads of the Afghan mujhidin in Iran. He commented on the significance of this visit, stating: It was

deemed necessary to achieve a principled and comprehensive agreement with the brothers who are involved in the formation of Afghanistan's future government.

IRNA reports that, following his return to Tehran, the foreign minister said: During the visit to Pakistan, extremely useful talks were held with the Pakistani president and prime minister as well as with the heads of the seven-party alliance of the Afghan mujhidin based in Pakistan and with other high-ranking officials of the Afghan mojahedin. He added: The talks with the Pakistani officials concentrated more on the expansion of bilateral ties and on cooperation between the two countries. Views also were exchanged on the upcoming meeting between Iran and Pakistan in Esfand [month ending 20 March 1989].

On Iran's and Pakistan's cooperation with the Afghan mujhidin, and, specifically, with the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan and the eight-party alliance based in Iran, he said: We achieved a favorable outcome as far as assistance for Afghanistan's future reconstruction and the advancement of political affairs of Afghanistan's future government are concerned.

Regarding the motive behind Mr Mojaddedi's visit to Iran, Mr Velayati said: He, who heads the seven-party alliance of the Afghan mujhidin based in Pakistan, came to Tehran with us to continue talks with the officials and heads of the eight-party alliance based in Iran on the formation of the consultative assembly and for Afghanistan's interim government. This will enable us in the near future to witness further cooperation between the mojahedin based in Pakistan and Iran and the mojahedin inside Afghanistan for the formation of the future government of that country after the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The report states that Mr Mojaddedi, head of the seven-party alliance of the Afghan mujhidin based in Pakistan, stated: At this juncture, when we have reached the door of divine victory and triumph, it was deemed necessary to achieve a principled and comprehensive agreement with the brothers who also are involved in the endeavor to form a government to replace the puppet Kabul regime. Therefore, we have concluded that a government comprising various groups inside and outside the country, should be formed. Thus, it was deemed necessary to coordinate with the mojahed brothers in Iran and to achieve a general agreement.

Mr Mojaddedi said: When Mr Velayati arrived in Pakistan, it was decided that we should exchange views with the Afghan heads based in Tehran in order to coordinate affairs because an assembly is to be held in Pakistan on 10 February, 21 Bahman.

At the conclusion of this interview, he expressed the hope that, with the cooperation of Iranian officials, the agreement that we have in mind will be achieved. He also called on all Afghan groups to cooperate with each other and to assist each other for the formation of Afghanistan's interim government.

Our foreign minister also attended a news conference yesterday in Karachi before leaving Pakistan and answered various questions by foreign correspondents on the peace process between Iran and Iraq, the future of Afghanistan, and Iranian-Pakistani relations. Regarding the date the future Afghanistan Government will be formed and on the possibility of the outbreak of a civil war following the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from the territory of Afghanistan, he said: We oppose any type of foreign intervention in Afghanistan. We hope that an Islamic government will be formed immediately after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and that a civil war will be averted, because the Muslim mujhidin of Afghanistan have shown that they are politically mature.

In answer to a question on whether there is a quota regarding the participation of Afghan mujhidin groups in the upcoming consultative assembly of the Mojahedin, our foreign minister pointed out: This is something which the Afghan mujhidin should decide themselves.

In conclusion, our foreign minister once again emphasized the Islamic Republic's opposition to any type of foreign intervention in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

Criteria for Improving Relations With UK Noted

LD0302065189 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 2, IRNA—The Foreign Office has watered down its criteria for improving relations with Iran and says it would like eventually to be able to exchange ambassadors.

A ministry spokesman said Thursday Britain would prefer ambassadors to be exchanged at the end of the present process in developing ties but that it would be "not automatic."

Britain will take account of the amount of access granted to British journalist Roger Cooper, imprisoned in Iran for espionage, and any developents over the detention of U.K. hostages held in Lebanon, he said.

Previously the Foreign Office had insisted that Cooper should be released, Iran should secure the release of missing Britons, Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan from Beirut, Iran's policy of "buying British goods last" be lifted and firm action from Iran against anyone who supports terrorist acts.

Without referring to the last two previous conditions, the spokesman Thursday simply emphasised that other factors and concerns arising at the time would also be considered and that Tehran was aware of London's position.

At a meeting in Paris earlier this month, Middle East Affairs Minister William Waldegrave publicly let it be known that Britain was looking for help from Iran about the missing Britons in Lebanon before relations could improve.

In return, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali 'Akbar Velayati answered that Iran wanted to see what Britain could do about four Iranian hostages in Beirut and against the phalangist terrorists who kidnapped them in July 1982.

The four Iranians, including IRNA photographer Kazam Akhavan, have been missing more than twice as long as their British counterparts.

The agreement on restoring relations signed in November allowed for the build-up of respective embassies in London and Tehran to 16 diplomats and at the end of 6 months, the consideration of an exchange of ambassadors.

This week Britain sent a new Charge d'Affaires Nicholas Browne to add to the first secretary and administration officer at the British Embassy in Tehran. Iran so far has only added a third secretary to its existing charge d'affaires at its London mission.

Relations With U.S., 'Flexible' Approach Noted

NC0202165489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Jan 89 p 2

[Commentary: "A Promise on a Marble Staircase"]

[Text] During his inauguration U.S. President George Bush said: "Today there are Americans in foreign countries who are being kept captive against their will, and nothing is known of their fate... We can cooperate in this, and each cooperation will always be remembered... Big countries, like big men, should keep their promises. When America says something it is from the bottom of its heart, be this a pact, or an agreement, or a promise made on a marble staircase."

Referring to Bush's remarks, the chief of the White House stated that Bush was telling Iran or any other country in the world that the United States will treat anyone who wants friendship in a friendly manner.

It should be noted that war and peace each have their special rules, and policies that apply in wartime cannot be implemented in peacetime. This gains additional significance when we recall Clemenceau's words that both war and peace have their winners and losers. Clemenceau said: We have won the war. Let us try to win the peace too.

The priceless experience that we gained during the war was this: We saw that when Iraq noticed that it could not emerge from the quagmire of aggression that it had itself created, it turned the war into an Arab and regional conflict. Ultimately, the Persian Gulf became the scene of maneuvers by the U.S. and other Western fleets, and the war virtually reached the point where everyone was either directly or indirectly against our revolution. Now, in a time of peace and of the acceptance of Resolution 598, we should not forget our experiences. When Bush explicitly calls for cooperation with Iran to free the American hostages, why should we not strive for the freedom of the Iranian hostages?

Why should we not use this opportunity for the freedom of the Iranian hostages? If we do not try and if we do not make our ideals flexible in accordance realities, then they will impose their realities on us and we will lose the opportunity to choose. We should bear in mind that we are at a very sensitive juncture now and that in this juncture it is definitely better to safeguard our national and revolutionary interests and to strengthen the power of the Islamic system rather than to insist on certain slogans.

Syrian Minister Arrives To Mark Revolution

LD0302171889 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Syrian Minister of Awqafs (Islamic Endowments) 'Abd al-Majid Tarabulsi arrived here today at the head of a delegation and was welcomed at the airport by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami.

The Syrian minister is here to participate in the ceremonies heralding the first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory in 1979.

Mirsalam Talks With Venezuelan President

LD0202135589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Mirsalim, senior adviser of our country's president, who is heading a delegation to Venezuela to participate in the swearing-in ceremonies of President Carlos Andrez Perez, met with him yesterday. They discussed bilateral ties, OPEC issues, and the world oil market. He also presented the president a written message from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. Mirsalim referred to the obstructionism of the Iraqi regime regarding implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He said that world pressure must be brought on Iraq to accept the resolution in its entirity.

Carlos Andrez Perez expressed thanks for the hospitality of the Islamic Republic of Iran during his recent visit. He said: The views of the Islamic Republic of Iran about OPEC are confirmed by us. We believe that Iran and Venezeula share ample fields for cooperation.

In conclusion he hoped that a lasting peace within the framework of Resolution 598 would prevail in the region, as such a peace would also strengthen OPEC.

'Text' of Foreign Ministry Statement on Namibia

LD0202181589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] In connection with the suggestion about the reduction of the number of UN peace-keeping forces in Namibia, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement. Following is the text of this statement:

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its happiness at the signing of the three-party peace agreement in December 1988 which will lead to the independence of Namibia on the basis of Resolution 435/78 of the UN Security Council, expresses its deep anxiety regarding the proposal of some of the permanent members of the Security Council, including the united States, about reducing the number of UN peace-keeping forces in Namibia with the excuse of a shortage of funds, etc. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that at this sensitive juncture, a reduction in forces would be in the interest of the racist South African regime and against the interests of the Namibian nation.

It would reduce the level of supervision and control of the UN peace-keeping forces over the course of free and real elections which are due to be held towards the end of the year 1989 in Namibia. Instead, the military and police forces of the Pretoria regime and their agents, with their more extensive presence, will hamper the free activities of the candidates and true representatives of the people of Namibia during the elections in that country. And it is likely that due to cheating by the agents and mercenaries of the South African Government in the elections the true representatives of the people of Namibia will be unable to demonstrate their political presence in Namibia. Consequently a weak and subservient government which, without doubt, will not be recognized by the people of Namibia will enter the international political arena.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the UN secretary general, the Nonaligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity, and all independent and freedom-loving nations of the world to prevent the conspiracy regarding the reduction of the UN peace-keeping forces in Namibia through their political and diplomatic efforts and to give rise to conditions under which true and popular elections may be held in Namibia and the true representatives of the people of Namibia may achieve power.

Majlis Speaker Tells Armed Forces To Stay Alert

LD0202192589 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani said in a meeting with Armed Forces officials here today that the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq cannot be trusted to last irrespective of all future developments, and that the armed forces should be wakeful.

He said that parts of the Iranian soil are still occupied by the Iraqi troops and that the two countries are yet too far from peace.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam also said that Iran must recast a new Armed Forces consistent with her present day needs.

Rafsanjani also doubles as deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Bazargan Interview Covers Formation of Party

NC0302091889 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] The Freedom Movement of Iran is to complete the application it received from the Interior Ministry within 2 weeks and will send it to the ministry together with the movement's charter. The movement will then register to receive permission to form a party.

This was stated by Eng Mehdi Bazargan in an exclusive interview with the English-language TEHRAN TIMES.

Eng Bazargan added: Our current problem is that the offices of the Freedom Movement have been occupied since last Khordad [month beginning 22 May 1988] on orders of the revolutionary prosecutor, and, without any process-verbal, eight members of the Freedom Movement and of the group defending freedom and national sovereignty were arrested, three of whom—Eng Hashem Sabbaghyan, Eng Mohammad Tavassoli, and Mr Mansuryan—are still in prison. The movement has not been informed about the charges against them.

Currently we do not have a printing and publishing facility, and, in a letter that we sent to the leader of the revolution dated 12 Mehr [4 October], we listed the problems facing the Freedom Movement.

Eng Bazargan, who was attending an exclusive interview with a local publication for the first time in almost 7 years, said, with regard to the movement's reaction to the Interior Ministry's law on the freedom of parties: The Freedom Movement fully welcomes this because we always have asked why the law on parties was not being implemented. It has been 6 years now since the Majlis approved the law on parties and, according to this law, the Interior Ministry is in charge of implementing it.

After the movement's offices were occupied, we sent a letter in which we stated that, on the basis of the law, the Information Ministry has no right to interfere in the affairs of parties. We believe that information acquired by the Information Ministry should be passed on to the Interior Ministry—something clearly pointed out in the law—after which this information should be handed over to the competent court.

We welcome the law on parties on the condition that it conforms with the Constitution. We believe that some problems do exist. For example, the fact that the members of a party's leadership should be approved by the members of the Article 10 Commission is not right, at a time when the Constitution does not stipulate any such thing. We now intend to proceed according to the law on parties and see what will happen.

Question: Does the Freedom Movement intend to change its constitution?

Answer: No, we have no such intention.

Eng Bazargan, the first prime minister after the revolution, spoke about the political objectives of the movement and about the continuation of his activities. He said: The movement's activities are more cultural-political in nature rather than being aimed at a political overthrow and a war in order to achieve power. We believe that power and sovereignty belong to the nation which chooses individuals during elections.

We will try to strengthen the Freedom Movement in the new phase, especially because over the past few years problems have been created as far as the movement's activities in the provinces are concerned. If the principle of freedom is implemented on the basis of the Constitution, the Freedom Movement, too, will become a good, active party on a nationwide scale. The movement will carry out the necessary cooperation with those parties that support the Constitution.

On participating in the next presidential elections, Eng Bazargan said: Like in the past, we initially will study the conditions of the society's freedom. Once we gain confidence, we will introduce our candidate.

Question: Have you met with the deputy leader in the past few years?

Answer: Yes. He received us approximately 6 months ago. Basically we have contacts.

Question: Do you believe that changes should be made to the Constitution?

Answer: In our opinion, the Constitution has some problems, which we had originally pointed out. We know that the leader of the revolution clearly stated in 1359 [year ending 20 March 1981] that this Constitution needs an addendum. We fully agree. But any change or addendum should be approved by the people, as was the case with the Constitution. We believe that a draft, which can be freely discussed by the nation and the press, should be prepared first.

On the assumption that he is asked to be prime minister, Eng Bazargan said: This is a personal question, but I will answer seriously on behalf of the movement. There is an adage that says "once bitten, twice shy." I became prime minister once, and I doubly repent...

At that time, too, it was not my personal wish, but more the pressure by my friends.

Question: Are you willing to meet with Messrs Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani and to seek solutions to the country's problems?

Answer: I am always willing and ready. I am not angry with anyone. We criticized and sometimes we even condemned some acts. But we have never been hostile to anyone and we have especially never mixed affairs of state with personal affairs.

Question: Have you had meetings with these gentlemen in the past?

Answer: The last time we met Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani was in Khordad 1361 [month ending 21 June 1983]. This was after the reconquest of Khorramshahr. We went to his office together with Dr Yazdi and Eng Sabbaghyan. First of all, we extended congratulations on the victory and on the reconquest of Khorramshahr. We thanked God and we thanked all those who had helped in this victory. We asked him what his view would be from that time onward. He said: We intend to stop here because the Iraqis are asking for peace. He added that the imam's view was the same as well. I said: Thank God. We came here exactly to hear this and to learn that now that we have ousted the Iraqis, we do not intend to advance into Iraqi territory.

Both Dr Yazdi and I explained that it would be detrimental for us from all aspects if we did so because, until now, we were the oppressed; the world supported us as the war was taking place on Iran's territory and the Iranians were fighting well, contrary to the Iraqi officers, who knew that they were carrying out bullying tactics on Iranian territory. We explained that if we moved into Iraqi territory, the situation would change, as the world would not like this. We added that now that the Iraqis have asked for peace, we should accept. We said that it was certain that Saddam would have no other alternative but suicide and that we would be compensated and therefore could start thr reconstruction of our country. He told us to rest assured.

(As far as this part of Bazargan's remarks are concerned, the TEHRAN TIMES office contacted Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's office. After discussing this point with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the official in charge of his office stated that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani remembered the meeting but that, as far as the discussions at the meeting were concerned, he could not recall these nor exactly what remarks were exchanged.)

429 More Prisoners Released on Anniversary

LD0202180389 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—Following Imam Khomeyni's amnesty orders on the occasion of the ten-day-dawn (February 1-11) a total of 429 prisoners were pardoned and set free in Bakhtaran, Bushehr, Masjed Soleiman (Khuzestan Prov.), and Gachsaran (BOvir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Province).

The prison terms of several other inmates were also commuted.

According to a new penal law passed fortnight ago those serving life sentences will have to spend only 15 years in jails.

11 Officials Appointed to 'Senior' IRGC Posts

LD0102203589 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps ministry has 11 new senior officials in what appears to be the biggest introduction of new faces in the organization since the August ceasefire with Iraq.

The new officials include logistics and executive deputies as well as an inspector and advisors in charge of planning, social and economic affairs.

IRGC minister Ali Shmakhani, who replaced Mohsen Rafiqdust in September after the latter failed to win a vote of confidence from the Majlis made the following appointments:

Ahmad Vahid logistics deputy, Hesamoddin Musavi executive deputy, Hoseyn Zarif-Manesh administrational and financial deputy, 'Ali Reza Mazinani head inspector, Ahmad Musavi head of minister's office, AbdulHamid Mallah-Zadeh nay advisor, Sadeq mahsuli planning advisor, Yusef Forutan social advisor, Khalil Tabataba'i economic advisor, Morteza Morteza'i industrial research coordination director general, and Sadeq Malbubi personnel director general.

Defense Industries Exhibition Opens in Tehran

LD0202121289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The defense industries exhibition opened this morning at the defense industries permanent exhibition on Pasdaran Avenue, in Tehran. On a site covering 20,000 sq. meters, products of the missile and weapons industries, communications equipment, telecommunication equipment, as well as equipment produced by air, chemicals and munitions, and mechanical industries and results of research and expansion work are on display. Also on display are all the achievements during the imposed war, the achievements which had supported the powerful combatants of Islam.

At the exhibition, several drone aircraft and ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles, all made by defense industries, are on display. Also, helicopter parts and various kinds of models are being exhibited. [passage omitted]

Judiciary Officials Meet, Discuss Role, Tasks

LD0202134189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 feb 89

[Text] Officials of the country's judicial system have held an extraordinary meeting, at which they reviewed and studied the role of the judiciary in light of the recent views expressed by the imam of the ummah.

The meeting was attended by the head of the State Supreme Court, members of the Supreme Judicial Council, judges, and public and revolution court prosecutors. The policy of the judiciary was discussed related to the speedy implementation of charges concerning outlaws; providing security for and peace of mind to the public; armed robberies; kidnappings; and narcotics. Musavi-Ardebili, pointing to the establishment of security throughout the country in the era of reconstruction, described the approach adopted by the religious judges and prosecutors to the narcotics problem as being satisfactory. Emphasizing the need for speed and care to be practiced by the judicial system, he added: In files related to the outlaws, if the principle issue is sacrificed to precision and security is lost, then this is a mistake. [sentence as heard] A file that has had its investigation completed from the religious law aspect, must have a sentence issued on it.

Editorial Discusses Problems in Judicial System

PM3101125289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Jan 89 p 2

[Editorial by Mehdi Talebpur: "The Problem of the Judicial Authorities is Not Bureaucracy"]

[Text] The judicial authorities have always been spoken of as those that ensure the application of the country's laws, realize the people's rights, and safeguard social justice. The judicial authorities' radiant past in the Islamic Republic of Iran has mostly been to the credit of the revolution courts, and their tough and prompt response to counterrevolutionary elements, as in the execution of a group of officials of the Shah's regime, those who were plotting a coup, and groups opposed to the revolution.

But for some time now the judicial authorities have shown some weakness in providing and protecting economic and social laws. They have shown themselves to be lagging behind the rest of the Islamic revolution's trends. This weakness now raises a question about the regime's progress in satisfying the principles stated by government officials and even members of the Judicial Council. This has also caused a disruption of the country's executive power and the spirit of social justice

in various towns. This has diminished the dignity and the credibility of the regime in the minds of the weak and oppressed peoples, and has caused judicial authorities to be identified with the old times. This is why when the government put forward the economic laws to control the unrealistic rise in prices, in practise the judicial authorities were left out and the implementation of the law was left to the government itself, with the powers that the imam granted Prime Minister Mr Musavi.

Along the same lines, because of a lack of tough action by the judicial authorities, we are now witnessing the growth of certain economic cartels such as the Nobovvat Foundation and a group of influential crooks in some towns such as Dorud, Sabzevar, Abhar, and so forth. This abuse of funds can also be seen in government centers such as the Saipa organization [Manufacturers of Renault cars in Iran] which also shows some weaknesses within the government but, more than that, shows a lack of strength on the part of the judicial system to carry out its duties.

In order to make up for this weakness and to regain the wealth of the oppressed people, the imam, who always attaches great importance to the people's suffering, sent a special delegation invested with religious aurhority, to look into cases where there had been some shortcoming or where the criminals and the accused had been declared not guilty and freed. Most of these criminals were brought to justice and sentenced to death, which was met with much joy and a warm welcome from the people, who sent their special blessings to the imam.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabily spoke of these matters in the first sermon of this week's Friday prayers and talked on the issues within the judicial system, the severe problems that have been caused in towns such as Sabzevar, Dorud, Abhar, and so forth. He spoke of the differences between an Islamic regime and regimes where the laws are the creation of the human mind and said that the imam's reaction to the recent issues was a special move by the regime to resolve the deadlock.

He also mentioned the long and slow process of investigating murder and other criminal cases, from the police to the Supreme Judicial Council, and blamed the powerful bureaucracy of the judicial authorities for delays in executing sentences, which have caused problems in some towns. He said the imam's actions outside the framework of the system managed to resolve this problem.

The main question is this: Are the problems of the judicial authorities in dealing with the cases of these criminals solely confined to a slow process of law or late execution of sentences or do they result from requests by the head of the judicial offices for a reprieve for those sentenced to death by the special delegation sent by the imam? In general is the increasing number of such cases not the result of such actions?

In more simple terms, the basic problem is the influence of certain powerful outside elements on the way the judicial authorities works. This means that, apart from the lengthy process of dealing with cases involving economic criminals, there are other issues which influence the verdicts handed down. This is what Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabily was speaking of in the Friday prayers. He said: Now the issue of the case in Sabzevar has come to a head after 3 or 4 years and a sentence was passed. But with the passing of time the issue has been completely forgotten.

Someone will say: Why are you executing this poor man? Another says: What has he done? Another says: What will happen to his wife and children? So everyone says something and this is why there is a deadlock in the judicial system. So it is not just the issue of bureaucracy in the country's judicial system that is causing the delay in the cases, but there are always those who "mean well," who help to create a deadlock in the judicial system in the country, who stop the punishment being carried out and Islamic law from being fulfilled.

If the real reason for the deadlock in the judicial system were bureucracy and the normal legal process, could not officials form a headquarters to investigate cases which have become deadlocked, before intervention by the imam? Could they not investigate important cases which determine the quality and dignity of the regime out of turn? An office called "the headquarters for carrying out the imam's orders" was established recently in Tehran. Could they not have established such offices under different names before now? Could they not have freed the people of Tehran and other places from the hands of the economic criminals?

This way the imam's orders would have been put to better use, in laying the revolution's foundation rather than rectifying people's shortcomings and their actions. Is the real way to fight the deadlock in the judiciary the formation of more offices—to be added to an already long list of such headquarters? Or would it be better to use the people already there within the framework of this regime and bureaucracy to gain justice for the oppressed people and prevent looting by the economic cartels such as the Nobovvat Foundation?

If the judicial authorities can show their kindness to the weak and oppressed peoples instead of directing it to the economic criminals of this country, it would, like the imam, win the hearts and minds of the people and in this process the long walls of the deadlock within the justice department will become shorter.

The solution to the deadlock within the judiciary is not to reach quick decisions influenced from outside but, rather, this spirit of kindness and mercy to the criminals must be killed within the judicial system. There must be a resolute attitude toward judges who do wrong, which in turn would speed up the process of God's laws. The fate of a healthy judiciary lies in that system's handling of

important cases such as that of the Nobovvat Foundation and its dealing with powerful and influential economic criminals in this country's towns.

Former Tudeh Leader Terms Party 'Insignificant'

LD3101193989 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Remnants of the Marxist Tudeh Party banned five years ago are too insignificant in number and divided to be considered a threat to the Islamic Republic, said the party's former ideologue.

"The young members of the Tudeh have issued a statement," said Ehsan Tabari who did not say when it was put out.

But he added: "They are a very small group who are very much in favor of a revolution and their goal is to overthrow the state."

Those who were active in the name of Iran's oldest communist party had different factions inside the country who were busy fighting among themselves, Tabari said.

The Tudeh Party leadership in Iran including Tabari and Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri were arrested in April 1983 on charges of spying for the Soviet Union and plotting to topple the Islamic Republic—charges they later accepted in television interviews.

Tabari was responding to a question as a member of the Chairing Committee of the International Islamic Thought conference being held at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel Tuesday.

"I've been asked to speak about the future of Marxism in Iran," he said in an address to more than a thousand Islamic scholars from Iran and several other countries. "It has no future."

He said the Tudeh Party organization abroad was facing even more internal tension and group rivalries than that in Iran. Even in the Soviet Union there were majority and minority factions.

"In such a state one cannot imagine that they can do anything. Even if they do get united (they cannot)."

Tabari also said he believed Imam Khomeyni's recent message to the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev calling on him to study Islam would "certainly have a deep impact on him".

70-Man Drug Smuggling Convoy 'Destroyed'

LD0202121589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] In a series of coordinated and unique operations, the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee attacked a 70-man strong convoy of armed outlaws and international smugglers in the desert; the guards killed all the culprits.

According to Communique No Four of the Headquarters for Combatting Narcotics, the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee implemented the new law for combatting narcotics in a series of coordinated, unique, and surprise operations. After identifying and pursuing an international drug smuggling gang, the guards was able to trap members of this gang in the Lut Desert. Guards from the Kerman Province Revolution Committee, forces from Abu Zar and Meqdad tactical bases, and brave personnel of Army Aviation attacked from the ground and the air the 70-man strong convoy of outlaws and smugglers. The outlaws and smuggelrs were armed with light and semilight weapons, anti-air weapons, and mortars. After 3 days of flight and pursuit, the forces were able to destroy them.

In these operations, seven vehicles of the smugglers with hundreds of kilograms of narcotics were destroyed and an 14.5 anti-air weapons [as heard] one mortar, two RPGs and related weapons, a large number of light weapons, ammunition, and 350 kilograms of narcotics fell into the hands of our brother guards. [passage omitted]

Narcotics Network 'Annihilated'

LD0202110189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] In continuation of their all embracing efforts to smash gangs engaged in preparation and distribution of narcotics, the Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan have annihilated an active narcotics production and distribution network.

According to the report of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, in these operations more than 380 kilograms of hashish and 4 kilograms of opium together with three delivery vans have been spotted and confisicated.

Members of the said gang who had had vast activities in preparing and distributing narcotics have been handed over to the competent authorities.

Article Attacks 'Corrupt Trend' in Music

LD0102180989 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—The growing broadcast and performance of music has been sharply attacked by a magazine which described the tunes as religiously illegitimate and part of a corrupt trend which could get out of control.

"It can be witnessed that a deviated, dangerous and opportunistic trend is misusing the imam's recent religious decrees and trying to misguide the society and push it towards centers of corruption," PASDAR-E ISLAM (Guardian of Islam) wrote.

The magazine, published by the Propagation Office of the Qom Theological Center, was referring to Imam Khomeyni's decrees some four months ago on the use of musical instruments for legitimate purposes and singing by male or female vocalists in particular circumstances.

The article reprinted in the daily JOMHURI ISLAMI Wednesday painfully regretted the re-emergence of what it termed "debauchery and libertinism" in the name of Islam.

It said the musical wave was being brazenly backed by deviated groups but others were also confirming it by their silence.

Since the imam's decrees under the supervision and planning of the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry Tehran's theater halls have been hosts to mainly traditional persian musical groups and the state radio and television (IRIB) has broadcast a wider variety of tunes.

For the fourth time the Guidance Ministry has organized a music festival with the participation of 44 groups during the current ten-day dawn ceremonies marking the tenth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Defending the IRIB Majlis speaker Rafsanjani Tuesday said the Imam who was more concerned about Islam than anyone else was well aware of what was being played.

"Change your way of thinking... and avoid religious narrow mindedness," he told a questioner at the International Women's Conference.

The daily ETTELA'AT remarked that the punishment of IRIB officials who allowed the broadcast of an offensive remark about a member of the household of the Prophet (peace be upon him) should not become an excuse to ignore and attack "all the IRIB's services and efforts."

Pasdar-e Islam said it was not unthinkable that some officials would allow the spread of corruption in order to quell dissatisfactions but warned that those who listened to such music "would always want more and unrestrained freedoms."

Pakistan

Missiles, Ammunition Found in Afghan Plane Crash

BK0302012489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] An Afghan military transport aircraft, which had intruded into Pakistani airspace on 31 January, crashed in the outskirts of (Basit) Village, southeast of Bannu, apparently due to a fuel shortage. The plane was loaded with ammunition and missiles, most of which exploded after the crash. However, about 300-400 70-mm rockets have been found intact at the crash site.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and a strong protest was lodged with him over this incident. The UN Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan has also been informed of this violation of the Geneva accords.

Fuel Shortage Believed Cause

BK0302052289 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Excerpt] An Afghan military transport aircraft, which had intruded into Pakistani airspace on 31 January, crashed in the outskirts of (Basit) Village, southeast of Bannu, apparently due to a fuel shortage. The plane was loaded with ammunition and missiles, most of which exploded after the crash. Nine dead bodies, all apparently of the crewmen, have been found at the crash site.

When the Afghan aircraft intruded into Pakistani airspace, Pakistan Air Force planes surrounded it, but did not take any action against the transport plane, nor could radio contact be established with the Afghan aircraft. [passage omitted]

Further on Iranian Foreign Minister's Visit

LD0102190389 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 1, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati termed the future prospect of Tehran-Islamabad ties as bright in a meeting with the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan here Wednesday.

"There are ample grounds for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries," Velayati said.

Ishaq Khan also said Pakistan would continue efforts to further promote ties with the Islamic Republic.

On the Afghan issue Ishaq Khan expressed hope that the two countries would help find a solution to the problem as soon as possible.

He said the Afghan people had an identity of their own and that they would not let one superpower to take the place of the other in their country.

Velayati said Afghanistan's future government should be acceptable to the majority of its people who struggled against their enemies over the past years.

Velayati arrived here Tuesday at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan whom he later met to discuss the Afghan problem, international issues, and joint cooperation to curb drug smuggling.

Both stressed on Iran-Pakistan cooperation at the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement and announced support for the establishment of an independent, non-aligned, and Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Yaqub Khan said there was no way for the domination-seeking powers to penetrate into Afghanistan adding that the Afghan people had struggled to achieve their Islamic goals and that they wanted to be independent.

Velayati referred to Iraq's undermining of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks and noted that although seven months had passed since Iran accepted the resolution, Iranian territory was still under Iraqi occupation.

But he added: "To have lasting peace withdrawal of the Iraqi forces is essential."

Withdrawal of forces is not something to be negotiated and should be done without any pre-conditions, Velayati stressed. "If the peace talks are to be constructive and fruitful, Iraq should give up its negative stands."

Holds Talks With Bhutto

BK0202153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Karachi today and exchanged views with her on Afghanistan and other matters of mutual interest. Later, addressing a news conference, the Iranian foreign minister said that an era of close regional cooperation between Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan will begin with the total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and establishment of a representative government there. He said that both Pakistan and Iran favor a united Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Discusses Afghan Situation

LD0202192689 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here Thursday and discussed with her mutual ties and regional issues, especially the Afghan problem.

Bhutto referred to the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan and said that Iran and Pakistan should continue help for the Afghan Muslims even after the Soviet pull-out from that country, which is expected to be completed by February 15.

Ms. Bhutto also expressed concern over the lack of progress in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Velayati said "the fate of Afghanistan should be determined by Afghan Muslims themselves." He added that the mujahidin struggle proved the fact that Afghans would never accept foreign domination.

On the Iran-Iraq peace talks, he said the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the internationally recognized borders was the first step towards implementation of (Security Council) Resolution 598 and the progress of the negotiations.

Velayati arrived here on January 31 at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and besides Premier Bhutto, has also held talks with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan before.

Holds Karachi New Conference

LD0202192189 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 2, IRNA—The Islamic republic will spare no efforts to help Afghan mujahidin set up a strong government in Kabul, while supporting their unity whether Shi'ite or Sunni, a senior Iranian official said Thursday.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently here on an official visit, said "Iran and Pakistan as two countries neighbouring Afghanistan will continue their support for the cause of Afghan Muslims as well as their consultation with the mujahidin groups."

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Velayati expressed hope that an independent Islamic Government will be set up in Kabul immediately after the remaining Soviet troops leave.

"We are optimistic towards a lasting peace in Afghanistan and hope not to witness civil strife in that country," he said.

Asked about the mujahidin's opposition to share power with the Soviet-installed Marxists in the future government, Velayati replied:

"It is natural for the Afghan mujahidin and people who have paid a dear price in their jihad not to share their future government with a party against which they have fought."

He also reiterated Iran's readiness to give financial assistance to Afghan refugees to reconstruct their country.

On the withdrawal of the rest of Soviet troops by the announced deadline, February 15, Velayati said world public opinion made it necessary for Moscow to complete the pull-out on time.

Velayati arrived here January 31 on an official visit at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. He confered with Premier Benazir Bhutto in Karachi this afternoon.

Spokesman on Solarz Remarks on Nuclear Issue

BK0302023989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday reaffirmed the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program and said Islamabad is ready to consider all positive proposals which are fair, nondiscriminatory, and which are not prejudicial to Pakistan's sovereignty. He was commenting on the remarks of U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz who reportedly mentioned a proposal under which the United States would sell an atomic reactor for peaceful nuclear energy to Pakistan. And as a quid pro quo, Pakistan will agree to accepting total safeguards for all of its nuclear installations, including the existing ones.

The spokesman said this is not the position. Pakistan needs atomic reactors to meet its energy requirements and it is on record that these reactors will come under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The spokesman pointed out that the IAEA safeguards are also being applied to the Karachi nuclear power plant, but the question of signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, accepting total safeguards, or agreeing to the inspection or verification of Pakistan's nuclear installations is a different issue. Pakistan will not accept any discrimination in this regard. The cause of nuclear nonproliferation in the region can be carried forward only through nondiscriminatory and equitable measures. In this background, Pakistan had suggested that the nuclear issue be solved on the regional basis, and it had already forwarded several proposals for this purpose.

THE MUSLIM Comments

BK3101105589 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jan 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Welcome Assurance"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has done well to emphasise the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme before the visiting United States Congressional delegation. This was necessary as there was much misinformed criticism about the country's nuclear plans and its capability in this advanced technology.

The leader of the team of Congressmen, Mr Stephen Solarz particularly, represents a powerful lobby in the American legislature which is unduly concerned with Pakistan's nuclear intentions, frequently alleging that this country was clandestinely producing atomic weapons. In fact, one of the issues the delegation was interested in taking up with Islamabad was the nuclear question. The President's assurance that Pakistan was not interested in building or acquiring nuclear weapons should help in clearing away all unnecessary doubts in the United States about our intentions.

The problem with some sections of the American leadership is that it has consistently refused to believe that the nuclear programme in many Third World countries is designed entirely for economic uses. With their own government having been the international leader in developing nuclear weapons of mass destruction, overtly and covertly, they are inclined to suspect every country striving to meet its energy bills through atomic power, as harbouring similar ambitions.

This has resulted in creating a strong lobby in America which encourages the use of its political and economic clout to selectively prevent some of the countries from pursuing their own nuclear plans. Thus while Israel and South Africa are allowed to develop nuclear weapons without any hindrance, countries like Pakistan are repeatedly singled out for strong pressure from Washington over the nuclear question.

Whether the United States or any other Western power likes it or not, Third World countries like Pakistan which are increasingly unable to satisfy the heavy energy demand due to paucity of funds, will have to develop their nuclear infra-structure to meet the economic challenge in the future. The existing or future conventional sources of energy like hydro-electricity and fossil fuels are not likely to bridge the gap between demand and supply of energy in the twenty first century which is just a decade away.

The exploitation of both these sources of energy, require massive investment and a lengthy gestation period for implementation of projects, which Pakistan will find increasingly difficult to meet. On the other hand, nuclear energy is much more cost effective and less time consuming in creating an infra-structure for it. The President's disclosure that Pakistan would be able to build nuclear power plants on its own in about ten years provides the answer to the technological difficulty of developing the nuclear programme.

Thus Pakistan, like a host of other states similarly placed in straitened economic circumstances, is poised to enter the next century with a heavy reliance on nuclear power. Shortage of funds and time have obfuscated all other options and atomic energy remained the only answer. Much of the planning in the early 1970s was designed to create the necessary wherewithal for shifting to nuclear power in the future. The new government will have to resume the plan and expedite the progress of development so that by the year 2000, we will not be handicapped by the difficulties we face today due to a massive shortfall in power production.

This is a fact the United States and other concerned nations must learn to accept, and instead of unnecessarily creating obstructions in the path of Third World countries trying to meet the challenge of the future, they should extend all the help and cooperation possible.

Iran, U.S. Moves To Normalize Relations Welcomed

BK0302063289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Abdus Samad Rafiq commentary]

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in his interview with London's OBSERVER said that if Washington wants to improve its relations with Iran, it should prove it by accepting the reality about the Islamic revolution and change its belligerent behavior. While in response, a United States spokesman has said that the first step toward any improvement in its relations with Iran must come from Tehran. He also expressed Washington's willingness to engage in authoritative dialogue with responsible representatives of the Iranian Government.

It is a matter of great satisfaction for all that the most turbulent region in the world is gradually proceeding toward peaceful settlement of disputes, and talks and negotiations are gaining more importance. The relations between Iran and the United States had extremely deteriorated after the departure of the Iranian shah and with the installation of Imam Khomeyni's Islamic revolutionary government in Tehran. Since Reza Shah Pahlavi was playing a role of U.S. policeman in the Gulf region, the United States wanted to keep him in power.

For that purpose, the United States supplied tremendous amounts of military aid to the shah, which was also used in crushing the extremely rightist and leftist revolutionaries of Iran. This provided strong foundations for a conflictual situation between Islamic Iran and the United States in the whole decade of 1980's. With the tremendous and historic victory of Islamic revolutionary forces in Iran, sentiments against the United States among the Iranian masses heightened.

The United States froze billions worth of Iranian assets in American banks and Iran also retorted in the same way. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was brought under control by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the American military attempt to rescue them failed. During the same period, the Iranian shah and his family migrated to the United States and brought with themselves a huge amount of Iranian wealth. All these factors led these relations to the extreme of deterioration.

After the breakout of Iran-Iraq war, the direct active of conflict between the United States and Iran got slowed down. But the feeling remained high against the United States because of its alleged support to Iraq. But after blockade of the Gulf by Iran and the deadly tankers war, the United States again became actively involved in this conflict.

However, in the meantime, an Iranian passenger plane was attacked by American gunboat and 290 citizens of Iran and other countries lost their lives. This accident created sympathetic feeling for Iran in the world. However, a more important development was that it became an immediate factor that convinced the Iranian Government to end its war with Iraq. After the cease-fire, both the United States and Iran realized the situation and gave signals for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

By the settlement of all disputes between the two nations through peaceful negotiations and dialogues, a new era of American-Iranian relations will begin. In bringing this happy change, both the governments should take positive approaches in order to end this conflictual situation. Both countries can take every suitable step of goodwill rather than waiting for a goodwill step from the other side.

For Pakistan, it is a happy development since both Iran and the United States are its close friends. The normalization of relations between Iran and the United States will not only reduce the international tension, but also contribute in the promotion of peace in this region.

Foreign Office Employee Suspected of Spying

BK0302003289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1924 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 2 (AFP)—Pakistani security agencies Thursday questioned a Foreign Office employee alleged to have passed classified information to an unnamed foreign diplomat, official sources said.

The sources did not give details but press reports said the suspect was a Bangladesh-born Pakistani national, A.K.M. Shamsul Haq, arrested by Islamabad police last Friday while allegedly trying to pass classified information to a diplomat in a city park.

The reports alleged that the diplomat was an Afghan who was gathering information of interest to India.

The initial complaint lodged with the police over the incident named Saadat Wahma, first secretary in the Afghan Embassy here, as the diplomat involved, according to the press reports.

Afghan charge d'affaires Qudratullah Ahmadi has described the reports as "absolutely baseless and part of a big conspiracy."

The Indian mission here has also denied involvement in the case.

The press reports said Mr. Wahma, claiming diplomatic immunity, was not arrested. But after statements by Mr. Haq, a Pakistani secret service employee had been included in the investigations.

A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman, asked to comment on the reports, said "the Foreign Office does not comment on security matters."

However he added that "no Indian diplomat was involved."

Shamsul Haq, a junior officer with two wives, lives in a rented house owned by a senior Pakistani police officer in the capital's suburbs.

Secret Service Described as 'Invisible Government'

BK0102090089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0832 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 1 (AFP)—A Pakistani Government-owned newspaper accused the country's secret service Wednesday [1 February] of acting as an "invisible government" and called for its reorganization.

Under the headline "Invisible Government," THE PAKISTAN TIMES said that the country's secret service, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), had overstretched its mandate.

"Jealous of its power behind the scenes, it has ... acted by insinuating itself into the confidence of the rulers of the time, by making them dependent, and then by drawing the veil over their faces and making them see only through its own eyes," the newspaper said.

"State intelligence of various breeds has indeed sometimes had a hand in the making and unmaking of persons, policies and even governments.

"The succession of despotic rulers ... lacking public sanction could only govern through loyal agencies that could manipulate the affairs for them and keep them informed (and misinformed) on friend and foe," it added.

"Planting agents provocateurs, stage-managing bursts of public violence, having journalists in regular pay and even compelling changes in policies and personnel within newspapers might have been all in a day's work, it has been widely suspected of much more as well," THE PAKISTAN TIMES said.

The ISI, which diplomatic sources said has been active in the past against political opponents and advises Afghan resistance leaders, is made up mainly of appointees of the late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The new government of Premier Benazir Bhutto set up a committee last month to reform the secret service, which diplomatic sources said has followed a "militarist" Afghan policy often at odds with that of the Foreign Office.

The secret service, headed by General Hamid Gul, an appointee of Gen. Ziaul Haq, is in constant contact with Afghan resistance leaders and has worked towards a mujahidin victory in Afghanistan while Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan has sought a political settlement to the conflict, the sources said.

On Tuesday, THE PAKISTAN TIMES ran an article in which former federal Finance Minister Mubashar Hassan called for a law to control the "berserk elephant" of the intelligence agencies.

"The intelligence services took control of Afghan policy and elbowed out the foreign office during the tenure of Gen. Ziaul Haq," he said.

Observers said it was the first time the official Pakistani press had published such a heated criticism of the country's secret service.

They said it may be an indication the new Bhutto government may not yet have managed to impose its views on the intelligence agency.

Bhutto, MQM Leader Discuss Mutual Cooperation

BK0202032189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], Altaf Hussain, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Karachi yesterday. The two leaders reviewed the overall situation in the country, especially the Karachi problems and Sind situation, and the the pace of implementation of the MQM-PPP agreement.

The prime minister said her government will provide support to all oppressed people and will solve the problems of the people of all regions without any discrimination. Benazir Bhutto assured that the MQM-PPP agreement will be fully implemented.

Altaf Hussain underscored the need for further strengthening mutual contacts. He said the MQM will extend sincere cooperation to the PPP and its government for consolidating democracy in the country. The two leaders decided to expand cooperation between the two parties at every level.

Minister Ahsan Regrets Punjab Chief's 'Attitude'

BK3101161989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] An Interior Ministry spokesman has expressed surprise and disappointment at the Punjab chief minister's statement that his government is not ready for talks

on the five-point formula offered by Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan for mutual cooperation to solve the problems of the people. The aforementioned formula is specifically related to ending the problems of drugs, illegal arms, and ammunition; promoting education; checking rising prices; and providing health care facilities in Punjab Province.

The spokesman added that despite the Punjab government's disinterestedness, the federal government will do its best to solve the problems of the people of the province. The present government realizes the fact that, under the previous administration, crime, drug problems, and prices had increased; and to eliminate these evils, the federal government needs the cooperation of the provincial government and the administration. The spokesman expressed the hope that the Punjab government will review its attitude in the larger interest of the nation and will give positive response to the interior minister's offer.

Sri Lanka

2 Killed in PKF Clash With Jaffna Students

BK0302090289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two persons were killed and several injured in a clash between a group of hard-core students and the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] near Jaffna University campus yesterday. The incident occurred when some students suspected to be LTTE militants were chased by the PKF. The students entered the campus and started pelting stones on the PKF personnel. They resorted to fire resulting in the death of two persons.

Iranian Dignitary Meets With Foreign Minister

BK0302111889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1045 GMT 3 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—His Excellency [H.E.] Ayatollah 'Amini, eminent Muslim dignitary from Iran, called on Sri Lanka Minister of Foreign Affairs and Higher Education A.C.S. Hameed today, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

H.E. Ayatollah 'Amini is a member of the high powered committee of experts in Iran which is responsible for electing the head of state of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He is heading a five member cultural delegation which is on a good will mission to Sri Lanka, India and China.

Welcoming the delegation, Mr. Hameed said that he was the first visitor to the Islamic Republic of Iran after it was established in 1979. He also stated that it was a coincidence that His Excellency Ayatollah 'Amini was the first foreign dignitary to call on him after His Excellency R. Premadasa was elected president of Sri Lanka.

The minister discussed the measures to be taken to further strengthen the cultural ties and trade relations between the two countries with Ayatollah Amini.

Mr. Hameed told the delegation that Sri Lanka was happy that the long and wasteful war between Iran and Iraq had come to an end.

He added that it was Sri Lanka's hope that whatever obstacles that are in the way would be overcome and that both parties would work together to ensure peace and harmony.